

One million people made jobless in past 12 months

One million Britons lost their jobs in the year to mid-March, the first such rise in any year since the war. The jobless total reached a seasonally-adjusted 2.38 million in March, or 9.9 per cent of the workforce. The TUC announced plans for a Liverpool to London protest walk, reminiscent of the Jarrow march of the 1930s.

TUC plans Jarrow-style march

By David Blake
Economics Editor

More than a million people were added to the unemployment queues in the year to mid-March, the first such rise in any 12-month period since the war. Although the figures show some signs that the rate of increase is slowing down, there was a storm of protest from trade unions and the Opposition.

The Trades Union Congress is to sponsor a month-long march from Liverpool to London during May, aimed at highlighting the plight of the unemployed. Five hundred people are to be sponsored in the protest which is aimed at evoking memories of the Jarrow march of the 1930s.

Adult unemployment went up by nearly 77,000 in March, pushing the total to 2.38 million or 9.9 per cent of the workforce after seasonal adjustment. The increase is roughly the same as that recorded in February.

Favourable seasonal factors and school leavers getting jobs meant that the total number of people registered as being out of work went up by only 21,000 in the month to mid-March, to give an overall total of 2,484,712, or 10.3 per cent of all workers.

There are now roughly 10 unemployed people for every vacant job in the country.

No part of the country has escaped the rising toll of factory closures and lay-offs, but the worst hit area has been the West Midlands, traditionally the heartland of British industry. Over the past year, unemployment has doubled to 11.6 per cent, a reflection of

the fact that manufacturing has borne the brunt of the recession. Of the 11 regions into which the United Kingdom is divided, seven have unemployment rates in double figures. The worst are Northern Ireland, with 16.4 per cent of the total workforce unemployed, and Wales and the North of England, where unemployment is 12.9 per cent.

The unemployment rate among men is much higher. Just over one man in five in Northern Ireland has no job, and the unemployment rate for men in the North of England is 15.5 per cent.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said that the rise in unemployment was the result of the "ruinous folly" of the Government's policies. In the House of Commons, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said the Government was "deeply concerned" by the level of unemployment and defended plans that unemployed young people should be offered the chance of military training.

He was attacked fiercely by Labour MPs. Mr Eric Varley, Opposition employment spokesman, said that government policy was in ruins.

Government hopes rest on the fact that latest figures confirm recent signs that the number of unemployed is growing less quickly than it was during the depths of the winter, when an extra 100,000 a month were joining the dole queues.

But although things are not getting worse quite as quickly as they were, the unemployment prospects still look bleak for the year ahead. The latest figures suggest that unemploy-

ment is well on course to go above three million during 1982 if schoolleavers are included. Few economists expect the number to drop below 2.5 million before 1984, and most independent forecasters expect it to stay above three million, possibly even rising steadily, until 1985. But reports of a Treasury forecast of 3.7 million unemployed have been firmly denied.

Long-term prospects are made worse by the fact that recorded unemployment figures do not show in full the extent of the jobs crisis which has hit the British economy in recent years.

A total of 1.2 million people are now covered by special government measures designed to hold down the level of unemployment, most of them on special short-term working schemes.

Without these measures, the Government estimates that the number of unemployed would have been about 370,000 higher. Other workers have dropped off the register altogether, in despair about their prospects of obtaining a job.

Taken together, these two factors will make it much harder to convert any improvement in the labour market into lower unemployment figures. But yesterday's figures show that such an improvement is in any case a long way off.

The seasonally adjusted number of vacancies fell fractionally for the second successive month, cancelling out tentative signs of improvement recorded in January. The number of notified vacancies, which provides a good guide to the labour market, halved over the last 12 months.

'Once and for all' effort on EEC fish

From Michael Horsby
Brussels, March 24

EEC heads of government today called on their agriculture and fisheries ministers to hold a special meeting in Brussels on Friday in an attempt to resolve the Community's six-year-old dispute over fishing policy "once and for all".

Announcing this after the EEC's spring summit meeting, Mr Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, who chaired the discussions, declared that there was "a clear political will to establish a common fisheries policy".

The other EEC leaders, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, agreed that the will was there, but they were unable to offer any concrete evidence that the chances of reaching agreement on Friday will be any better than on previous occasions.

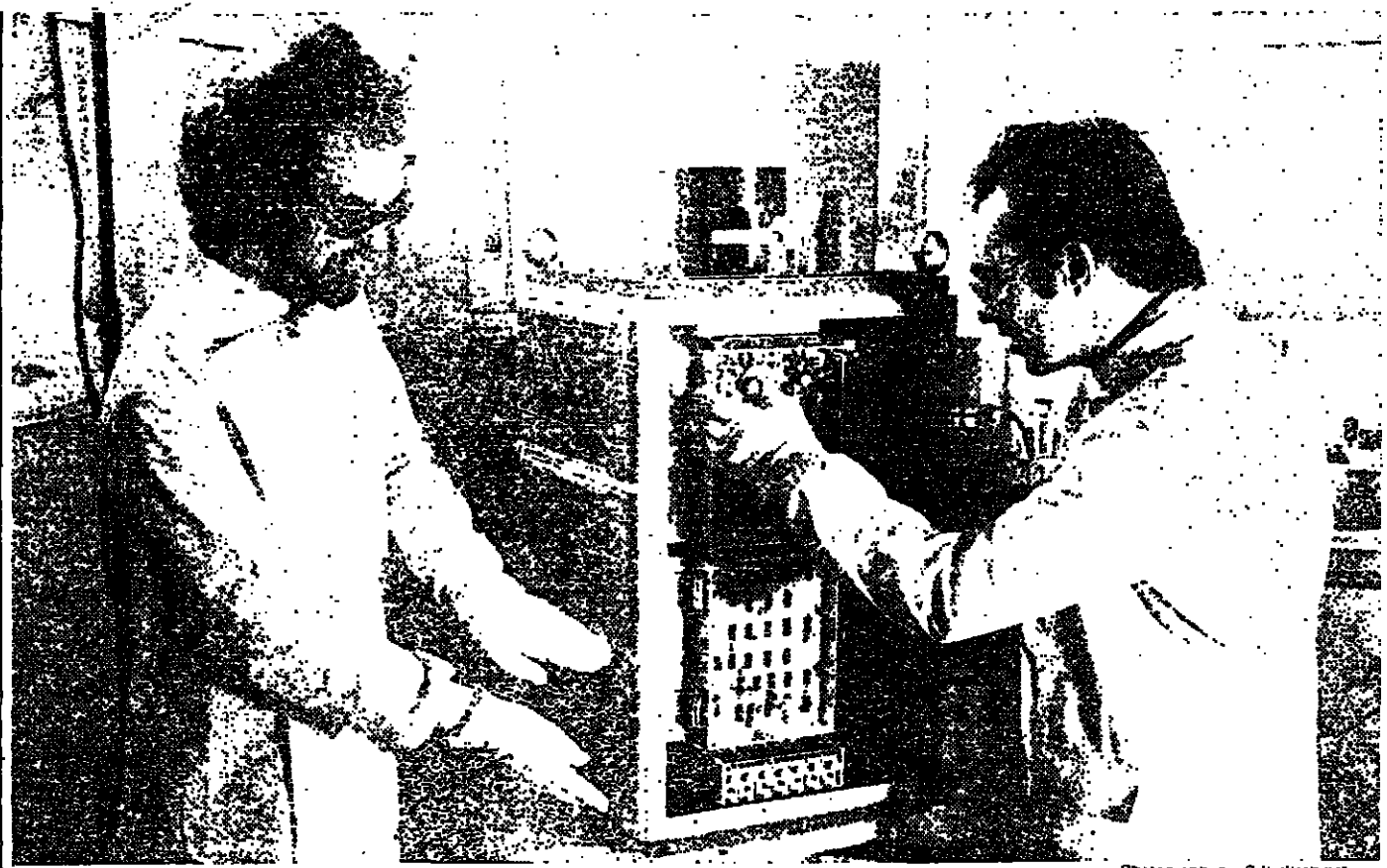
Speaking before flying home after the two-day summit in the town hall here, Mrs Thatcher said she was "not thinking in terms of compromise". Asked about reports of heated exchanges between herself and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, the Prime Minister replied bluntly: "I do not respond to pressure."

The fisheries issue came up over dinner last night, and again during this morning's discussions. The atmosphere was said at times to have been as tense as at Dublin in the autumn of 1979 when Mrs Thatcher came close to an open breach with her EEC partners over Britain's contributions to the Community budget.

Herr Schmidt is enraged because the lack of agreement on a new fisheries policy is holding up a separate accord between the EEC and Canada which would allow West Germany's deep sea fleet into rich cod fishing grounds off Newfoundland and Labrador.

Britain refuses to ratify the Canada deal because it would cut off supplies of Canadian frozen fish to the Community and allegedly threaten the livelihood of British fishermen, who are already hard pressed by competition from low-priced imports.

Fisheries policy would offer better protection against cheap imports. Continued on page 5, col 2



Dr Martin Sweeting (right) and Mr Ian Ferber of Surrey University at work on the Uosat satellite.

UK satellite hitch-hikes to the galaxy

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

While the mighty technological resources of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) are being focused on the forthcoming maiden flight of the space shuttle, a more modest piece of space technology is coming together at the University of Surrey at Guildford.

This is Uosat, a satellite being built to benefit school-children, among others, and which will hitch-hike into orbit

on the back of a Nasa Solar Explorer spacecraft.

Uosat is also intended for use by radio enthusiasts as well as serious space scientists.

With a little help from their friends in industry and elsewhere, Surrey's electronics and electrical engineers are building the "shoestring" satellite at an estimated cost of about £100,000.

This is a ridiculously low figure for a scientific satellite of its size. Dr Martin Sweeting, Uosat project manager, said yesterday that for comparison, UK-6, a British scientific satellite of about the same size and complexity, had cost £9m to develop and build.

The university began to develop the craft two years ago with the deliberate aim of seeing what could be achieved on limited resources. "We adopted

a common-sense approach to see what we could get away with," Dr Sweeting said.

One thing they got away with was not paying the £15,000 quoted by an aerospace supplier for the metal honeycomb side-

panels for the satellite. A small Stevenage company, which normally supplies such panels for underground train doors and racing cars, did the job for £300. "Not that we go shopping for bits in Woolworths," Dr Sweeting said.

The American Explorer launch, originally planned for mid-September, may be brought forward to July because the Nasa end of the project is well advanced. This means that life is very busy at Guildford and elsewhere for the four-man Uosat team and a supporting group of about 20 part-timers.

The satellite will cater for all tastes. It will carry experiments concerned with the ionosphere and radio propagation, which will keep the scientists happy, or at least busy. Also, it will carry a video camera to take pictures of the earth—and a talking computer to say what the readings of the instruments are—which should make science projects in schools rather more interesting than some have been in the past.

The project has the seal of approval of Amsat (the Amateur Satellite Corporation) which has coordinated work on the earlier series of Uosat satellites for amateur radio use.

Industry sponsors include British Aerospace, British Telecom, Ferranti, MEL and Racal.

BL official injured in Dublin shooting

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A republican gang shot and injured a senior British Leyland official yesterday while he was lecturing on industrial relations in Trinity College, in the centre of Dublin.

Before they fired at Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, aged 35, Director of employee relations and services at BL Cars in Coventry, the terrorists shouted: "This action is in support of H-block. Everybody freeze." Mr Armstrong staggered and fell to the ground. He was hit in the chest by three shots.

He was taken to the Meath Hospital with leg wounds, and his condition was described later as comfortable.

The shooting occurred at 2.20 pm. Witnesses said that three men burst in at the back of the lecture theatre. They were wearing combat jackets and balaclava helmets, and at least two had revolvers. Many in the audience flung themselves to the ground as three shots were fired.

Gardaí sealed off the college and late yesterday evening they were still questioning each person as they left. There were hundreds of students, lecturers, and Dubliners on the campus at the time.

The Dublin office of the National H-Block and Armagh Committee, which has campaigned for political status for republican prisoners in the Maze and Armagh jails in Northern Ireland, denied any involvement. The Irish Republican Publicity Bureau denied that the IRA was involved.

Mr Armstrong, a member of the British Institute of Management, was in Dublin at the invitation of the Dublin Junior Chamber. He lives in Coventry and is married with three children.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Minister for Justice, said the shooting met with the overwhelming condemnation of the Irish people.

Crucial role: Mr Armstrong has a key role at BL Cars (Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent writes). Since his appointment two years ago he has led the company's industrial relations team with outstanding success through some of the most critical and long running union-management negotiations in the company's history.

Queen's tribute: In a personal message of condolence to Field Marshal Auchinleck's cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Auchinleck, the Queen said: "His brave and unstinting service to his country in war and peace will always be remembered." (The Press Association reports). Obituary, page 16

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leading the British forces against Germany's desert commander, Erwin Rommel - Reuters.

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Ronald Biggs will fight extradition to Britain

By Craig Selous

Mr Ronald Biggs, the fugitive Great Train robber, who is in a police cell in Bridgetown, Barbados, after a bizarre "kidnap" in Brazil, said last night that he will fight any move to return him to Britain.

Five Britons, said to be former soldiers, are reported to have organized the elaborate abduction of Mr Biggs, aged 51, from a Rio de Janeiro restaurant last week and to have flown him to a Brazilian port where he was smuggled on board a yacht bound for Barbados.

Last night friends of Mr Biggs in Rio said that Mr David Neufeld, an American lawyer, had been appointed to represent him against extradition attempts.

The mysterious circumstances surrounding Mr Biggs' arrival in Barbados after a week at sea, and the motive for the move, took a new turn last night when a report that an heir to a fortune in Britain had helped to finance the operation. Mr Biggs, who escaped from Wandsworth prison in 1965 after serving less than two years of a 30-year sentence, was at first reported to be willing to return to Britain when he was taken off the Novcanti II, an Antigua-registered schooner, by the island's immigration officials on Monday night.

Last night he was said to have told police that he wanted to return to Brazil, where he has a son, Michael, aged 53. The fingerprints of the man held in Barbados are being sent to Scotland Yard for comparison with those of Mr Biggs's prints.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has also sent for the police file on Mr Biggs and is ready to apply under the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967, to have him brought back to Britain.

Mr Biggs told police that he had been kidnapped when immigration officials "rescued" him from the Novcanti II, which had apparently broken down off the coast of Barbados. But the men involved in the episode, some of whom had travelled with Mr Biggs from Brazil, claimed there had been a "citizen's arrest".

Partners in a north London security firm, Single Point Security, were said yesterday to have been behind the enterprise. Mr Gerry Brown, a



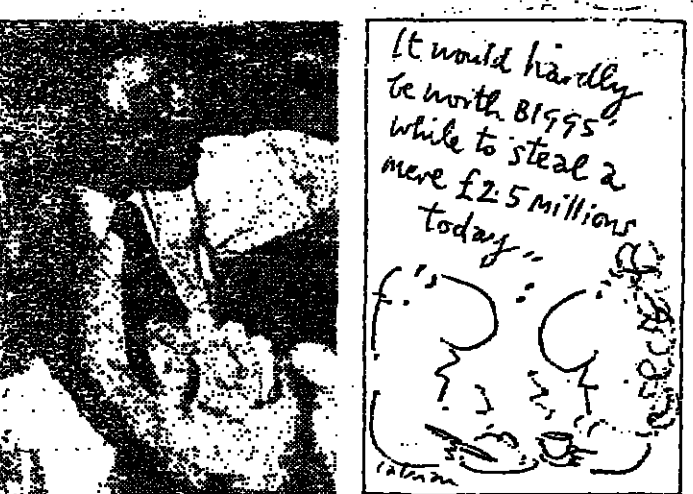
Mr Biggs leaving for Bridgetown by police car.

freelance journalist who said he was taken on as a press-liaison man, said the kidnap had been masterminded by Mr Fred Prime, a Londoner and a Mr John Miller, both known as John McKillop, both former Scots Guards.

Mr Miller, aged 36, was married in Bridgetown at the time the Novcanti II arrived off Barbados.

A third member of their team is said to be a Mr Patrick King, another former soldier, who runs a taxi company in north London.

As in the past, the case surrounding Mr Biggs has turned into a can of worms. Money is the obvious motive for his "abduction" and a London agent, apparently representing the "snatch" squad, has



offered national newspapers the full story. A price up to £500,000 has been mentioned.

Mr Jack Slipper, who then as a detective chief superintendent failed to bring Mr Biggs back to Britain, said yesterday that he was disappointed for the fugitive. "I would like to have seen him come back to Britain under his own steam."

Five named: Barbados police last night named the five men on the yacht with Mr Biggs as: Mr Thomas McLeod Maciver, aged 25, of Edinburgh, the skipper; Mr Gregory David Nelson, aged 19, of North Carolina, USA; Mr Anthony James Marriaga, aged 26, of London; Mr Frederick Charles Prime, aged 42; and Mr Mark St John Hargate, aged 22, of Plymouth.

Fugitive in headlines, page 4

It would hardly be worth \$1995 more \$25 millions today

Sir Claude Auchinleck dies in Morocco

Marrakesh, Morocco, March 24.—Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, one of the last surviving Supreme Commanders of the British armed forces in the Second World War died on Monday aged 96.

British embassy sources said today. Field Marshal Auchinleck, who had lived in Marrakesh since 1967, was said to have died in his sleep.

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leading the British forces against Germany's desert commander, Erwin Rommel - Reuters.

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Polish Council of State calls for crisis session

By Our Foreign Staff

The Polish Council of State is to convene a special session of Parliament on Monday because of the gravity of the crisis facing the country, state television reported yesterday.

Leaders of the independent trade union movement, Solidarity, yesterday proclaimed a four-hour national strike on Friday and an indefinite general strike next Tuesday.

After a clash between moderates and militants they left the door open for last-minute peace talks.

Faced with the threatened resignation of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, the union's national consultative commission accepted his compromise proposal to declare a warning stoppage rather than to immediately call for an all-out general strike.

The commission, in an angry mood and seeking a big protest against alleged police assault on its members in Bydgoszcz last Thursday, had tried to overrule Mr Walesa during a turbulent all-night session.

But last night, the state television said the chairman of the Bydgoszcz Provincial Assembly had announced his intention to resign.

Solidarity has said it wants the resignations of a provincial deputy governor, police officials and a deputy prime minister

who was present when police were called to the assembly.

Mr Walesa warned his union colleagues that the declaration of an immediate general strike would dash the last hope of reaching a settlement with the authorities and he stayed away from the commission meeting when it resumed yesterday.

He returned to preside over the meeting only after the commission had accepted his proposal which hinged on the resumption of talks with the Government today.

It was immediately reported by the official news agency PAF which said there was an atmosphere of tension and anxiety in the country.

The crisis coincides with continued Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in and around Poland, heightening concern about possible Soviet military intervention.

Units of Polish, Soviet, Czechoslovak and East German armed forces are taking part in the exercises which are expected to end late this week.

Food rationing has been ordered by the authorities in the Gdansk region because of an acute shortage of bread, potatoes, and other foodstuffs, Polish television reported today. It said that "enormous queues" formed today outside food shops in the Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia urban area.

EEC aid, page 5

Four BL unions on strike at Metro plant

Four white collar unions made official a two-day strike by their members at BL's Longbridge plant intended to stop production of the mini Metro. The men are angry at the imposition of redundancies after an insufficient number of workers volunteered to leave. They claim that some men with long service were given only half an hour's notice.

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Foot-and-mouth clash

Farmers and auctioneers clashed over livestock markets being held near the area declared by the Government to be in immediate danger from foot-and-mouth disease. The National Farmers' Union called for a ban on such markets, but an auctioneer in the area said they had to only half an hour's notice.

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Spanish king's demand

King Juan Carlos told senior Spanish Army, Navy and Air Force officers in Madrid that increasing terrorist violence made it necessary: "to act with decisive defence to an energetic offensive". But he also set clear limits to the growing influence of the armed forces on the country's civilian government.

QC as mediator in auction dispute

Mr Patrick Neill, QC, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, is mediating in the dispute between art dealers and auctioneers over the auctioneers' 10 per cent buyers' premium. He is seeking a compromise before a case is heard in the High Court in the autumn.

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Ulster powers move

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Dali painting in jail

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"I look for effective action..."

"I look for effective action from any organisation. That is why I admire Help the Aged, for it gets on with the job, the vital job of helping old people in real need, in a thoroughly practical yet friendly way. And with the minimum red tape and the maximum mobilisation of voluntary effort—which is why it achieves such a great deal with the money it is given." You are likely to have gained your capital by diligence, so you will want whatever you leave used with similar thrift and care when you are no longer here.

Even on an estate totalling no more than £60,000 the tax burden can be an unpleasant surprise to your heirs—and you will have no choice in the way that tax is used.

Yet tax can be substantially reduced if you wish charitable work to benefit from a legacy. Thanks to the Chancellor's 1980 budget, charitable gifts up to £200,000 are now disregarded in assessing duty. It means that, for example, on an estate of £130,000 a charity legacy of £1,000 need cost your estate only half that amount.

And you, not officials, decide how that money is to be used when making the legacy. There are few needs greater than the increasing problems of old people: acute loneliness, frailty as they live longer, bad housing; and, overseas, severe hunger. Help the Aged is well-known for its enduring work in providing flats, day centres, mini-buses, medical research and much more in Britain; and for its work for the hungry overseas. Help with a legacy of continuing value.

How to Reduce Capital Transfer Tax and Making Your Will—two helpful booklets with much useful information, free on request from: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T2L, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.

Political defections cause chaos as the Tories relinquish borough control

1. 15: Iran ID 0.300: Brisa Recunite
 2. 15: Iraq ID 1.100: Jordan LD 0.15
 3. 15: Lebanon LI 4.80
 4. 15: Libya LI 3.50: Sweden Esc 40
 5. 15: Morocco DR 5.00: Norway
 6. 15: Oman OR 0.700: Pakistan
 7. 15: Portugal Esc 30: Qatar
 8. 15: Saudi Arabia SR 0.25
 9. 15: Spain Sp 100: Sweden
 10. 15: Switzerland S frs 3.00: Syria
 11. 15: Tunisia Dtn 450: US and
 12. 15: UAE Dir 7.00
 13. 15: Yugoslavia Din 40.

Meanwhile, Mrs Ernie Crawford, a Labour councillor, left her party and became independent. For a time she took the Conservative whip on return for which she was asked to become vice-chairman of the social services committee in a position she still holds.

Unalloyed political triumph for the borough set in on January 28 when Mrs Crawford was pushed over at a bus stop, injured her leg, and failed to reach the council meeting. Conservative resolutions were carried, but the Conservative majority that meeting were lost as a series of Labour motions were carried.

The Conservatives saw the

The Conservatives saw their programmes for selling council houses and commercial land lost, and their plan for redevelopment of Fulham to centre abandoned. The country also insisted on reopening six public lavatories it had closed.

In a series of extraordinary meetings the Conservatives have tried and failed to recover their lost ground.

The final blow fell last week when the Conservative programme for next year's rate was rejected in spite of the promise of Liberal support. The Conservative-Liberal package proposes cuts of 6m in expenditure, a 48.3 per cent rate increase.

The Labour package, which was carried instead, limits cuts to £2.5m and makes the borough's increase in rates, 5.9 per cent, the second in the country. Rates for the average householder in the borough will rise from 24.36p a week to 25.65p.

On the crucial votes Sir Crawford voted with Labour as did Mr Killick, Mr Lazenby and Mr Gifford. Mr Gifford supported the Conservatives, staid on one vote and supported Labour on the others as did the second Liberal councillor.

The Conservative leader, Mr

Labour's courtiers, Mr. Savile said, lacks the political will to leave within the rate it has set.

Mr. Anthony Powell, Labour leader, still hopes last night, still hopes that it might be possible to head off the expected defections.

"I understand that I have ceased to be leader of the opposition and am for the moment leader of the large group, a position I may lose again on Thursday," he said.

The Conservatives, who still have a numerical majority in the committees, most of which will have to elect new chairs at their next meetings, may even insist on electing the Labour opponents to the vacant chairs "to make them take responsibility".

Mr. Knott, the Liberal leader, perhaps sensibly has departed on a two-week cruise.

The long-suffering council officers say: "Everything in the program will continue to be normal. The only thing that has been lost is political control."

Barbara Windsor faints on stage

Barbara Windsor, the actress, fainted on stage just after the start of last night's performance of *Entertaining Mr Sloane* at the Lyric Theatre, Hammer Smith, West London, and her performance was abandoned.

Miss Windsor, aged 43, needed oxygen and was treated by a doctor. She was recovering later at her home in north London.

recordings

NOON TODAY

Temperature: 50° F. Wind: light S.W. Clouds: 100%.

Sea passages: S. North Sea. Straits of Dover. English Channel. (W) S. strong. Locally rough. Sea rough or very rough.

Yesterday

Temperature: max 63° min 40°.

[illegible]

3.00: Switzerland 9 Frs 3.00, Syria
 3.50: Tunisia Din 450, LS and
 nada \$1.50, GAB Dr 700,
 Yugoslavia Din 40.

Mail—daily except Sundays, January 1 December
 and 25 and Good Friday by Tunes. Vents 25
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 East and Cover, New York NY 10017. Telephone
 152, 554, 470.

Ad subscipiens. 1875. 1876.

Review finds Chancery courts are 'archaic'

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Wide-ranging reforms of the way the Chancery Division of the High Court conducts its business are proposed in a report of a two-man review body published yesterday.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said that if the proposals were implemented it would mean "quicker justice, because litigants would get before the courts sooner; cheaper justice, because the necessary legal steps would be fewer; and the Chancery courts would be more accessible to people outside London."

The authors of the report, Lord Justice Oliver and Mr John Woolf, who was until recently the director general of establishments in the Customs and Excise Department, found considerable evidence that the Chancery Division was run on an archaic, inflexible and inefficient lines, wasteful both of manpower and money.

One finding was that the 12 judges in the division (which deals mainly with trusts, wills, company law, bankruptcy and commercial disputes) sat in court for only 55 per cent of normal available court hours.

It found "wholly unacceptable" the waiting time of 13 or 14 months between a case being set down for hearing and being given a date when it would come before the court. The report makes recommendations intended to reduce that period to less than six months.

The greatest source of complaints about the work of the Chancery Division related to delays in drawing up court orders, the documents that explain what the court had decided and what further steps need to be taken.

The average time taken between the decision and the drawing up of the order was just under six weeks; nearly a third took more than ten weeks. Those delays could be reduced "to days rather than months".

Most of the 86 proposals made by the review team are procedural and administrative. Their cumulative effect, the authors believe, would greatly reduce delays and costs and improve efficiency.

Proposed staffing changes, for instance, would reduce the salary budget by 20 per cent. They include the abolition of the ranks of Chancery registrar (whose top salary is nearly £20,000) and deputy registrar.

Some new appointments are proposed. A senior administrator, of at least assistant secretary grade, should be appointed to exercise administrative responsibility for the three divisions of the High Court.

Other proposals include: the extension of regular Chancery court hearings to Birmingham, Bristol and Cardiff; a cheaper system for contesting wills; the setting up of a permanent civil procedure committee; reform of the filing and typing systems; and ex parte applications (where only one party is present) to be heard in private.

Report of the Review Body on the Chancery Division of the High Court (Stationery Office, 55.30).

Nurse broke patient's jaw at Rampton, court told

A charge nurse at Rampton, the special hospital in Nottinghamshire, punched a patient in the face because he was "playing up", it was alleged yesterday.

The blow broke the man's jaw, which had to be wired up and took several weeks to heal, Leicester Crown Court was told. The nurse, Gerald Brian Bowskill, aged 47, denied causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Peter Sheerin, a patient.

Mr Sheerin told the court that on the evening of the incident, in July, 1974, he had a fight with another patient in the television room over who should umpire a cricket match. Mr Bowskill, charge nurse on

the ward, unsuccessfully tried to separate them and then punched him on the jaw.

Next morning Mr Bowskill saw him and he (Mr Sheerin) agreed to tell the doctor that the other patient had caused the injury.

Mr Jeremy Roberts, for the prosecution, said Mr Sheerin's jaw was so painful that he was unable to eat. When he was taken to Doncaster Royal Infirmary it was found to be broken.

The matter came to light some five years later, when police were making inquiries into alleged incidents at Rampton, he said.

The case continues today.

Councils devise rival plan for finance of higher education

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Surprisingly far-reaching proposals for the establishment of a national body to plan and finance all higher education in the public sector will be put to a closed meeting of the Council of Local Education Authorities today.

The confidential proposals, which are expected to be approved by the meeting, are the local authorities' answer to the Department of Education and Science's highly controversial leaked proposals to take higher education out of local authority ownership and put it under the direct financial and administrative control of a new body on which the local authorities would have no direct representation.

The department's proposals provoked fiercer opposition from the local authorities than education ministers had expected.

At one stage the local authorities refused to participate further in the joint discussions between the universities and the local authorities set up by the department in an attempt to get some kind of joint policy on all higher education.

The temporary crisis was averted when Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, invited the local authorities to put their proposals for higher education in the public sector, and explained that he had planned to consult them before any decisions were taken.

The local authority proposals, drawn up by officials of the Association of Metropolitan

Authorities and the Association of County Councils, go some way towards meeting Mr Carlisle's ideas.

As under the department's proposals, the national body proposed by the local authorities would not be simply advisory but would have the power to finance institutions directly from central funds provided either by a direct grant from government or by levying contributions from local authorities and would also have the power to rationalize higher education provision and to approve individual courses.

The local authorities' proposals differ from the department's in that the colleges and polytechnics would continue in local authority ownership; local authorities would have a majority of members on the national body; and all higher education would be funded directly by the new body, including advanced courses in colleges where most of the courses were non-advanced.

Under the department's proposals, only those institutions with 70 per cent or more of their work in higher education, amounting to some 100 of the 400 maintained colleges in England and Wales, would have come under the national body.

The department's proposals came up against strong opposition from environment ministers when they went to a Cabinet subcommittee last month, on the ground that the Government had enough of a battle on its hands already with local authorities over local government finance without antagonizing them further. But the proposals were supported by industry ministers.

The brother of Mr George O'Dell, the former world motor cycle sidecar champion, who killed himself in a blazing house on Monday after a four-hour gun siege, made an official complaint yesterday over the way the police handled the affair.

Mr John O'Dell said: "The police were with my brother inside the house for four

Beach finds lead museum to dinosaurs

By Kenneth Gosling

Some chance finds on an Isle of Wight beach and a television programme by Mr David Bellamy, the biologist, have led to the Natural History Museum identifying more than a hundred bones as belonging to the dinosaur known as megalosaurus.

The discovery has excited museum officials because it is the most complete example ever found from the period with which it is associated, lower cretaceous, which puts its age at about 120 million years.

In due course the bones, which are lying in a tray in a sub-basement at the museum, will be put on public display. They were picked up by holidaymakers in the summer of 1978 on Brightstone Beach.

Dr Angela Milner, senior scientific officer in the museum's department of palaeontology, said: "It gives us our best evidence of the carnivorous dinosaur. There are pieces of vertebrae, small pieces of skull and a section which shows the natural articulation of the neck-bone."

The holidaymakers had no idea of the significance of what they had found until one of them saw the David Bellamy programme and got in touch with the museum. The pieces, which are believed to have fallen from the cliffs, are from one animal, a fact verified when two parts brought in independently fitted together perfectly.

Megalosaurus is historically important because the first dinosaur bone to be identified, about 300 years ago, probably belonged to that species.

Sir Richard Owen, first director of the Natural History



Megalosaurus, which grew up to six metres long

Museum, which is celebrating its centenary this year, in 1841 grouped together the iguanodon, the megalosaurus and the hyalosaurus into the dinosaurs, or "terrible lizards".

The new discovery gives the museum what it calls "an extra record in space and time". The museum is urging holidaymakers not to risk prising any fossils out of the cliffs. But if anyone is lucky enough to find any while beachcombing, Dr Milner would like them to note the exact spot and tell the museum.

If the court rules against the United Kingdom, changes would almost certainly have to be made in the prison regulations and approved by Parliament. An independent appeal mechanism for prisoners' complaints would also have to be set up or the Government would have to allow prisoners quick access to the courts. At present it is difficult for prisoners to sue.

The Home Office has decided to reform the prison rules and said yesterday it would take note of any decision from Europe. It is understood that reforms have been strongly re-

vised by the Prison Officers' Association.

One of the prisoners who complained to Strasbourg was Mr Michael McMahon, who was released from prison last year after serving more than ten years for the murder of a Luton sub-postmaster. He has always maintained his innocence and was released on the recommendation of the Home Secretary.

Mr McMahon complained that letters he sent to the BBC asking for transcripts of programmes about his case were stopped. One prison rule is that inmates may not write letters to anyone they did not know before they entered jail.

Prisoners are allowed to write letters of complaint only to members of either house of Parliament or to their solicitors once their grievances have been ventilated internally.

Short-term solutions: Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, was called on yesterday to legislate for the rapid introduction of an early release or automatic parole scheme for short-term prisoners (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mrs Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said such measures were needed in the light of the Government's disclosure of a rise in the prison population of 4,000 to 43,500 over the past two months.

Marriage law change: The Government is to prepare legislation to change the marriage laws in England, Wales and Northern Ireland so that prisoners can be married in jail and housebound invalids can be married in the place in which they live (Our Parliamentary Staff writes).

Strasbourg to rule on British jail censoring

By Lucy Hodges

A report which found the Government guilty of violating the European Convention on Human Rights over censoring prisoners' mail has been referred to the European Court in Strasbourg for a binding legal decision, it was disclosed yesterday.

That means that the European Court has before it five cases against the United Kingdom Government. The censoring case, which involves complaints brought by six British prisoners, is seen as far-reaching because of the challenge it poses to the prison rules and to the lack of any adequate appeal system for prisoners who have complaints about such issues as food or harassment.

A report drawn up by the European Commission of Human Rights, which has not yet been published, has found violations by the Government on four counts. The report has been sent to the Committee of Ministers, and at the commission's last session was referred to the court, the last stage in the procedure.

If the court rules against the United Kingdom, changes would almost certainly have to be made in the prison regulations and approved by Parliament. An independent appeal mechanism for prisoners' complaints would also have to be set up or the Government would have to allow prisoners quick access to the courts. At present it is difficult for prisoners to sue.

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At the sign of the Black Horse



Author cleared of possessing carbine illegally

David Anne, author of the best selling book, *Rabid*, was cleared yesterday of possessing a Second World War German carbine without a licence on his firearms certificate.

Mr Anne, aged 50, of Amport, near Andover, Hampshire, denied the offence, which involved a German military 7.92mm bolt action carbine used in a window display.

Magistrates at Andover were told the carbine's barrel was blocked with a welded steel rod, and that a part retaining the cartridges had been removed.

Mr Anne said: "It is often said that the law is an ass, and sometimes, regrettably, this is right. But on this occasion it is not the law which is an ass but those who seek to interpret it."

The magistrates dismissed the case.

Courts must not be shackled, clerks insist

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Attempts to fetter the discretion of courts in sentencing would be neither effective nor profitable, the Justices' Clerks' Society said yesterday in evidence to the Parliamentary All-Party Penal Affairs Group.

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is considering how to encourage a reduction in prison sentences to alleviate prison overcrowding. Legislation is one option open to him, but he would prefer courts to act of their own volition.

The society yesterday agreed, in a paper to the group, that where a sentence is unavoidable it should not be a day longer than necessary, and short sentences should be preferred to long.

The society says imprisonment should be retained as a sanction for fine defaulters.

Two sea chase men get bail

Bail was granted yesterday to two of the men arrested after a tug, the Sea Rover, was chased across the Channel on March 5 to Newhaven by French and British customs men who suspected the vessel of drug running.

The other eight were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Lewes, East Sussex. All are accused of illegally importing cannabis into the United Kingdom. Reporting restrictions were lifted earlier.

Robert Morris, aged 31, a Canadian, of no fixed abode, and William Morris, aged 30, a factory worker, of Northfleet, Kent, were granted bail.

Both were remanded until May 12 for a further £1,000 each and on condition that they report twice a week to the police.

The eight remained in custody were Brian Elliott, aged 27, of Lewes, Sussex; John Anthony, aged 27, of Brighton; Brian Evans, aged 27, of the Hague; and John of Holland; Christian Janick, aged 27, and Ernest Johnson, aged 27, both of Lewes; and Mohammed Abdul, aged 23, both of Worthing. An eleventh man, known as Abdul, aged 23, the owner of a Hampshire Lane, Oldham, was remanded on bail last week.

Zimbabwe to receive £25m more aid from Britain as part of improved aid package

From Nicholas Asford Salisbury, March 24

Lord Soames, who is leading the British delegation to the Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development, today announced that Britain is to contribute an additional £25m towards the cost of higher education for Zimbabwean students in Britain.

The £25m is part of a package amounting to £25m of new British aid which has been committed to Zimbabwe. Lord Soames said this brought Britain's total aid commitment to Zimbabwe since the country became independent a year ago to more than £140m.

His announcement came during a series of pledging speeches by representatives from donor nations and organizations which, by the end of the day, totalled £528m.

However, a breakdown of this figure was not immediately available, nor was it clear how much of this total was "new money" which did not take into account previous aid commitments, nor how much was in the form of grants or loans.

Zimbabwe is trying to raise more than \$800m to finance reconstruction, rural development and manpower training projects over the next three years.

It was clear from today's pledges that the conference, which still has three days to run, will come close to achieving that figure.

Mr Tom Mswaka, Permanent Secretary at the Department of

Economic Planning, said with mild understatement that he was "satisfied" with the outcome of the conference so far.

Britain's additional aid package falls into three parts. In addition to the £25m to the students, a further £10m is being earmarked for land settlement, including purchase of land from white farmers.

Britain has so far earmarked £20m for land settlement projects. Another £10m will go towards the cost of regional communications projects in southern Africa.

Lord Soames said one scheme Britain had in mind was the improvement of the rail link to the Mozambique port of Beira, which would be the country's main export route before closure of the border between Rhodesia (as it then was) and Mozambique in 1976.

The question of Zimbabwean student fees had threatened to sour the otherwise cordial relations with Zimbabwe. In 1966 Britain joined a training scheme to enable black Rhodesians, whose schooling was interrupted by the unilateral declaration of independence, to complete their studies in a number of Commonwealth countries.

However, after independence last year Britain said the new Government should pay for its overseas students.

Dr Tim Matthews, director of the Africa Educational Trust, said it would cost £15m to en-

able all Zimbabwean students finishing courses in Britain to continue for a further three years. Many of them could not return to study at the University of Zimbabwe, as there were more than 4,000 applicants for only 1,200 places.

While welcoming the increased funds he said this figure was "totally inadequate to meet the needs of many students who enrolled on courses which are not available in Zimbabwe."

Among the donor nations which responded today to the call by Dr Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Economic Planning, for a "healthy push to start us going" were the United States, West Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Canada, Norway, Australia, Denmark and France, as well as international organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

One of the largest commitments was made by the United States which will provide \$75m (about \$23.6 a year over the next three years, subject to congressional approval of the Reagan Administration's aid budget).

Canada is to provide Can \$50m (about £20m) over five years. West Germany will raise its commitment from £12m to about £18m in 1981, while France is offering a doubling of its present aid to £22m. At the bottom end the Japanese chipped in with about £3m.

Mr Njonjo named in Kenya plot trial

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, March 24

A Nairobi magistrate conducting a preliminary inquiry into an alleged plot to overthrow President Moi of Kenya was told today that Mr. Andrews Muthemba, charged with treason, had claimed to represent a group of "big names", including Mr. Njonjo, the Minister of Constitutional and Home Affairs.

Captain Ricky Gutu, of the Kenya Air Force, gave evidence today of conversations with Mr. Muthemba and Mr. Dickson Mwangi, who is accused of misprision of treason. He said that Mr. Muthemba had asked him to obtain quantities of arms, including machine guns, rifles, and hand grenades, for the alleged plot.

Mr. Muthemba had also claimed that Mr. Njonjo, the head of the Kenya Central Intelligence Agency, had helped to prevent the discovery of the alleged plot.

Captain Gutu said he had been acting with the knowledge of his superiors when meeting the two accused men.

Mr. Muthemba had given him a list of arms wanted by the group, and had told him, when referring to President Moi, that "this man must go". The inquiry continues.

MP resigns: Mr. Ougo Ochieng, the MP for Bondo, Western Kenya, announced today that he had resigned to allow Mr. Oginga Odinga, the former Vice-President who was barred from the 1974 and 1979 elections, to return to Parliament through a by-election.

Mr. Odinga was detained from 1969 to 1972 after forming the short-lived Kenya People's Union, which was dissolved. He rejoined the ruling Kenya African National Union but was denied formal clearance to stand as a candidate in the 1974 and 1979 elections. His life membership of Kanu has since been confirmed.

Briton jailed for murder of young Dutch girl

Arnhem, March 24.—A Dutch court today jailed Geoffrey Allen Powell, aged 23, of Manchester, for 12 years for murdering a Dutch girl, Mr. Powell, who was considered to be of diminished responsibility, was ordered to undergo indefinite psychiatric treatment.

He was also charged with the attempted rape of Karin Nathans, aged 12, found dead in a ditch near the Rhine last August 1. Mr. Jan Kopp, for the prosecution, said Mr. Powell was sentenced for five years in England in 1975 for attempted rape and served four years.

Mr. Powell admitted strangling Karin Nathans with her belt, but claimed he had not meant to kill her: "I only wanted to hear her screaming," he said.—Reuter.

Modernisierung INSTANDSETZUNG



Squatters leaving houses they had occupied in the Kreuzberg district of West Berlin after police forces yesterday broke down fortifications built in front of the entrances.

German police search houses of neo-Nazis

From Patricia Clough Bonn, March 24

Police today searched about 450 homes in one of the biggest nationwide operations against neo-Nazi activities in West Germany.

They seized large quantities of Nazi propaganda and anti-Semitic publications which had been printed in the United States and Canada and either smuggled or mailed into West Germany.

They made no arrests but those found in possession of large quantities face charges of spreading Nazi propaganda and racial incitement, which are punished by maximum jail terms of three and five years respectively.

The simultaneous raids followed investigations by the Stuttgart public prosecutor's office into the alleged activities of two German-Americans, Mr. Garry Lauck, aged 28, and Mr. Gerd Dietz, aged 41, and a German Canadian, Mr. Ernst C. F. Zündel.

They are alleged to be partly responsible for what a security service official described as "floods" of pamphlets, brochures, stickers, records and tape-recordings which have been shipped into West Ger-

many to the concern of the authorities.

The propaganda, often adorned with swastikas, proclaims that "Hitler lives", that the evidence of the extermination of six million Jews is a "lie", that the Nazi revolution will come and that Jews must be fought "to the death".

Mr. Lauck of Lincoln, Nebraska, is the leader of the Nazi Overseas and Reconstruction Organization and publisher of a newspaper called the "NS Kampfruf" (Nazi call to battle). Expelled from West Germany in the mid-70s he returned illegally in 1975 and was given a six-month suspended sentence for spreading 20,000 stickers saying "Don't buy from Jews".

Mr. Dietz of Reedy, West Virginia specializes in an anti-Semitic material printed by his firm, White Power Publications. Mr. Zündel of Toronto, who claims to be head of a Zündel Combat Group is known for publications and tape recordings claiming that the film "Holocaust" was a lie.

A Stuttgart police spokesman said that 70 per cent of those whose homes were searched in Baden-Württemberg were more than 30 years old, but by no means all were "old Nazis".

Mr Bush's role upsets top Reagan aides

From Patrick Brogan Washington, March 24

President Reagan, according to several reports, is to appoint Mr. George Bush, his Vice-President, to be chairman of a crisis management committee of the National Security Council.

Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that he did not think a decision had been made on the issue, and that if it had "that would pose another set of problems."

Mr. Haig was giving evidence to a Senate committee and was asked about the reports. He replied: "I read with interest and, I suppose, a lack of enthusiasm, the newspaper reports that you refer to. One recognizes that, however the President decides to organize his national security structure, that is both his prerogative and his responsibility. I don't think a decision has been made on this issue."

"At least, it has not been discussed with me if one has been made. In that case, that would pose another set of problems," he said.

The role of crisis manager has usually been filled by the national security adviser. However, there has often been conflict between the adviser and the Secretary of State and the appointment of Mr. Bush seems to be an attempt to hold rivalry between Mr. Haig and Mr. Reagan's national security adviser, Mr. Richard Allen. It has displeased both of them.

Mr. Allen is not likely to be particularly pleased, if it goes through, because the Vice-President is part of the Ford-Kissinger-Haig wing of the Republican Party, not a hard-Furthermore, putting him in charge of arrangements for the summit implies that Mr. Allen such as event. There was considerable criticism of Mr. Reagan's recent trip to Canada.

Mr. Haig has been disturbed at some of the foreign policy pronouncements of members of the White House staff, including the speech by Mr. Allen last Saturday in which he described "a rising tide of racism" in West Europe and denounced Britain's Labour Party.

Mr. Haig also reacted sharply to an interview given by one of Mr. Allen's assistants last week, in which he predicted that unless the Russians give up communism, there will be a war between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In that interview the official, Mr. Richard Pines, asserted that détente was dead. Mr. Haig may incline to that belief himself but he would not say so publicly. He has insisted repeatedly that he is in charge of foreign policy, and that officials of the National Security Council must follow his directions.

The trouble with this procedure is that Mr. Allen works in the same building as the President and sees him every day.

M Marchais is accused of two-faced tactics

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, March 24

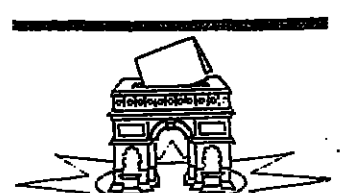
Mr. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, keeps on proclaiming that he is the only real "anti-Giscard" candidate in the lists. But last night, in his first television performance since the beginning of February, he proved that he was much more effective as an "anti-Mitterrand" candidate.

He presented the Socialist candidate with nothing short of an ultimatum: Mr. François Mitterrand would not have Communist support if he did not take Communist ministers into any government he might form—which is another way of ensuring that he is not. To drive the point home, Mr. Marchais threatened to stage strikes and demonstrations to ensure that a left-wing government adopted a policy of real change and prevent it from coming to terms with the right.

Both threats were designed to undermine the Socialist leader's tactics of appealing for the votes of the Communist rank and file—on the ground that he alone has a chance of defeating Mr. Giscard d'Estaing—and for those of the centre, by insisting that if he won, he would not appoint Communist Ministers.

No wonder Mr. Georges Sarre, one of the left-wing Socialist leaders, described Mr. Marchais as a Janus-like figure; one face was of the anti-Giscard candidate, the other of an inspirer of a secret union against François Mitterrand.

Last night's was not one of M. Marchais' best performances on television. He was nervous, aggressive, and talked as if he were addressing a public meeting, not a panel of journalists.



French Presidential Election

It was obvious that the key passage of the broadcast had been thoroughly discussed by the party leadership.

On the assumption that M. Giscard d'Estaing and Mr. Mitterrand were left face to face in the second round, he said he would certainly not choose the first and he did not wish to call for abstention.

But voting for the Socialist leader "raised a serious problem." The real danger is to see François Mitterrand, if he has a free hand, govern with the right to pursue and aggravate the present policies.

The only way to prevent this and bring pressure to bear on him, was to ensure that the Communists had a substantial vote in the first ballot.

EEC offers Poland food supplies

From Peter Norman Warszawa, March 24

The leaders of the 10 EEC states today promised to continue providing economic support for Poland.

At their meeting here, the heads of government responded to Polish requests for food aid and a rescheduling of the country's huge debt burden by saying they were willing to act within the limits of their means and in collaboration with others.

In a final statement, the EEC earned the Soviet Union to keep out of Poland's affairs. They emphasized that any other attitude would have very serious consequences for the future of international relations in Europe and throughout the world.

Poland proved to be the dominant theme during the informal part of the two-day summit.

An overriding concern was the state of the Polish economy, which Lord Carrington, the British Secretary of State, said had "clearly deteriorated". Mr. Jacques-Nicolas Orléan, the EEC Commissioner responsible for financial affairs, went further and described Poland's economic position as "catastrophic".

The Polish Government approached the European Commission with a request for cheap food supplies two days ago, and today the heads of government ordered the Community institutions and member states to treat the issue as a matter of urgency. But an even bigger emergency is the \$25,000m (\$31,000m) owed by Poland to the West.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said after the meeting that all EEC states were prepared to help the Poles with food and finance.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France said that the French and West German governments had rescheduled their share of Poland's debt burden and he called on other countries to follow suit.

At present Poland's debt position is the subject of negotiations with its creditors in the "Club of Paris". These countries have agreed to grant Poland bridging loans of \$1,000m a quarter to tide the economy over.

Mrs Thatcher also emphasized that the Poles must solve their own problems in their own way. But she underlined that Poland was an object of continual concern and that Britain was prepared to contribute food aid.

Bankers to confer: A group of international bankers will meet in London next Tuesday to continue negotiations on Poland's request to refinance about \$1,000m of commercial debt falling due this year. The meeting is expected to be attended by Mr. Jan Woloszyn, first Vice-President of Bank Handlowy, the Polish state foreign trade bank.—Reuter.

Herr Schmidt angered at fish dispute deadlock

Continued from page 1

But agreement is blocked by a dispute between France and Britain over the access of French trawlers to British inshore waters, on which local fishermen are especially dependent.

Mrs Thatcher declared: "Our fishermen must have the certainty and confidence which a fisheries policy as a whole will give them." The accord with Canada "could not possibly have been agreed to by us in isolation", she added.

Herr Schmidt commented bitterly after the meeting that he felt "deceived and disappointed" by the EEC's failure to put a new fisheries policy into effect by the end of last year. This deadline was endorsed by Britain as part of last May's package deal on its budget contributions.

"The Federal Republic agreed to a financial deal which caused enormous difficulties and higher taxation in Germany," Mr. Schmidt declared in aggrieved tones. "I was deceived and disappointed. There is no point in such an agreement if one side does not stick to it."

During the summit discussion Mrs Thatcher firmly rejected the accusation that Britain was the cause of the failure to meet the end-of-year deadline. The British view is that agree-

ment was nearly reached last December and prevented only by French intransigence.

Mrs Thatcher apparently took the initiative in calling for this Friday's meeting of agriculture and fisheries ministers, who had not been due to meet until some 10 days later.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France left most of the sparring with Mrs Thatcher on fish to the German Chancellor. He expressed confidence that an agreement could be reached on Friday but said firmly that France would "not renounce its traditional rights".

This was taken to be a reference to the so-called "historic rights" of French fishermen within 12 miles of the British coast, particularly off Cornwall, which Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, would like to see reduced.

The heads of government also called on their agriculture ministers to reach agreement on this year's EEC farm price package by April 1. The chances of doing so seemed to have been improved by an adjustment of "green rates" announced in Brussels today.

The European Commission was urged by the EEC leaders to submit its promised proposals for reform of the EEC's budget system in time for discussion at their next summit meeting on June 30.

Britain in storm over remains of General Sikorski

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Home Secretary will have to decide whether the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, leader of the Polish government in exile in Britain after 1939, can return to Poland.

Poles in Britain are angry about reported moves by the Polish Government to obtain the remains of the wartime general killed in an air crash in 1943. He is buried along with many of his countrymen in the Polish war cemetery at Newark, Nottinghamshire.

The Polish news agency PAP stated yesterday that General Sikorski's remains were to return to Poland. British officials say no such request has been received.

In May, thousands of Poles are expected to make a pilgrimage to Newark to celebrate the centenary of the general's birth. Along with thousands of his countrymen, General Sikorski served with the British forces, and many Polish servicemen were stationed at Royal Air Force bases in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Polish ex-servicemen living in Britain say they object to the remains being sent back to Poland because the country is under Soviet influence and still not a free nation.

French authorities act swiftly to contain foot and mouth outbreak Emergency for farmers in the valley of the pigs

From Ian Murray Paris, March 24

Early on Sunday, March 1, the farmer's wife on a small pig farm in northern Brittany checked on the new litters of piglets which the previous evening had seemed normal.

To her horror she found what looked like a slaughter. Eleven piglets lay about a sty, crumpled and broken as though they had been thrown about by a sadistic killer. Their stomachs looked blue and swollen, and when she checked further the wife found several of the sows had pustules on their teats and their snouts looked as though they had been dipped in boiling water.

The local veterinary surgeon was called out immediately and he diagnosed swine fever, but as a precaution he sent the carcasses for testing. The following Thursday he told the farmer that his piglets had died from a comparatively rare virus strain of foot and mouth disease.

As a precaution, and even before the final results of the tests were known, the small farm had been isolated. Following normal procedure, the veterinary surgeon had notified the prefecture in Saint-Brieuc and, as soon as the outbreak was confirmed, the whole area was cut off by a sanitary cordon.

The farm is in an area with the densest population of pigs in Europe. The local farmers run their own cooperative, which claims to have the largest abattoir of its kind in Europe, handling 300,000 pigs a year. Not surprisingly, the region centred on Lamballe is known as "the valley of the pigs".

Nevertheless, foot and mouth disease has not occurred in the area since 1974, and even then the valley itself largely escaped. When the confirmation of the outbreak came through on March 5, the local breeders were shocked and mystified.

The only recent outbreak this type of virus in Europe had been in Austria, over 600 miles away. There had been no outbreak in France since 1976 in Normandy.

As each case was confirmed, all the animals on the farm involved were destroyed, as required by law. The farmers, particularly those who also raised cattle, were so upset that it was agreed locally not to release their names in order to protect them from the press.

At the same time as the sanitary cordon was instituted, in a six-mile radius an extensive programme began to vaccinate

571,630 animals—a precaution which may have paid dividends, since one case subsequently came to light in a neighbouring farm.

All the local veterinary surgeons were mobilised and 50 Army vets were sent in to help. Working in teams, they finished the huge task in four days.

Adequate stocks of vaccine were available because France instituted compulsory vaccination for all cattle in 1962, on the ground that France—unlike Britain—has huge land frontiers which cannot be closed against the disease. Equally, the size of the French herd—nearly 25 million—is too large to vaccinate in an emergency.

The 1962 regulation excluded pigs because their average lifespan is too short to warrant the expense of vaccinations. All cattle over six months old, however, have to be vaccinated and have to be given an annual booster. Since 1972 the state has ended its subsidy for this, and the full cost has to be paid by the farmer.

Some rebel farmers defied the law rather than have their herds vaccinated because, they claim, the vaccination can be dangerous and it generally benefits only the drug companies.

The Brittany foot and mouth outbreak established itself in the unprotected pig herds and spread to the surrounding area before was carried out there to limit the spread of the disease.

The vaccine used should provide immunity after 10 days. To be quite sure, however, the regulations insist that the sanitary cordon must be kept in place for 15 days after the last outbreak inside the isolated area. After that, two months have to elapse before a farm which has been infected can be restocked.

Apart from the strict limitations on the movement of livestock in the area, there are further limitations on what can be done with the meat from the Lamballe Abattoir. Each carcass is now stamped with a special round seal, which means it cannot be exported and must be used solely for domestic consumption.

This has caused the price of pork—already severely depressed—to fall further by 40 centimes (about 3p) a kilogramme. The French Government has agreed to help the farmers in the area by guaranteeing them a basic minimum price.

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King of Spain urges 'offensive' to halt wave of ETA violence

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 24

Speaking to senior Spanish Army, Navy and Air Force officers here today, King Juan Carlos declared that, after last week's increase in terrorist violence, "it is necessary to act with decisiveness, passing from a posture of patient defence to an energetic offensive."

The king's words came as an endorsement of last night's decision by the inner Cabinet of the Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo to use armed forces units for the first time in the fight against ETA, the Basque terrorist organization.

The king, addressing the superior councils of the three armed forces, assembled for the first time since 1976 told the officers he understood their reaction to the fact that Basque terrorists made senior Army officers their preferred target, as happened twice last week. But he also set clear limits to the growing influence of the armed forces on the civilian Government, to which Señor Calvo Sotelo at present appears to be submitting. He repeated his pleas to the armed forces to "reflect profoundly" on last month's failed military coup and the "tragic results" it might have had.

The king, speaking in the presence of the Prime Minister, went on: "But do not let us forget that these tragic results could also come from a slow process of decomposition, lack of authority, or a gradual overstepping of constitutional norms."

He urged the officers to fulfil the laws of the country and uphold its institutions. The king was even more outspoken when tackling the difficult problem that the armed forces face in finding adequate means with which to communicate their feelings to the rest of society.

"I do not mean, and this must be completely clear, that there is a need for establishing a military influence which presses on national political activities," he said, "but rather the reverse, so that national political activities are

not obsessed by military influence after the grave events of February 23." What was important was that, like other forces in society, their sentiments could be known and properly evaluated.

A single unified anti-terrorist command is to be set up in the next few days, the inner Cabinet announced last night, with the armed forces represented alongside the state security forces, the national police, and the Civil Guard, whose senior officers are also from the armed forces.

Señor Juan Rosón, the Interior Minister, is expected to take charge of the 10-man body but decisions will be taken unanimously, according to informed sources.

Most of the units are expected to come from the six military regional commands based on Burgos, which covers the Basque region of northern Spain. But specialized units may be drawn from other parts of the country.

The Army units will be used to assist the civilian police and the paramilitary Civil Guard in keeping a watch along Spain's northern frontier and in intelligence activities which are now to be coordinated throughout the Basque region.

The Basque autonomous regional government, making its first comment today, argued that last night's move did not need to affect individual rights or the powers of the regional government.

Señor Calvo Sotelo was meeting the Army Council this afternoon. He is also due to see Señor Carlos Garaikoetxea, Chief Minister of the Basque regional government, here tomorrow.

In the past few days, the police have arrested 18 suspected members of ETA in the Navarre region, scene of one of last week's killings, and in the Basque country 20 suspects were arrested early today. The steering committee of the Chamber of Deputies today agreed to a Government request to try to get legislation on terrorism and incitement to rebellion through Parliament next week.



This painting of the Crucifixion was valued at £45,000.

Salvador Dali work hung unnoticed in jail canteen

New York, March 24.—A canteen at a city prison has not only been dishing out meals, but, for the last 16 years, a cultural diet as well. A Salvador Dali painting donated by the artist in 1965 hangs on a wall.

At least it did until its authenticity was discovered. It is now in the executive offices of the Corrections Department for safekeeping. The 5ft by 4ft painting of the Crucifixion has been the subject of investigation over the past two weeks after a warden at the Rikers Island prison called in a Manhattan art dealer who authenticated the piece and valued it at up to \$100,000 (about £45,000). The origins and value of the

work, given after Dali had visited the jail, has been obscured and forgotten with the change in wardens and guards over the years.

But prison officials, attempting to trace the history of the piece, said that if a second valuation supported the first, the Corrections Department would like to ask the artist for permission to sell the work.

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Likud begins West Bank settlements coach tours

From Christopher Walker
Ariel, March 24

One of the most controversial election exercises devised in Israel, more than 300,000 voters—nearly one-tenth of the population—were to be taken on subsidized coach tours of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank before polling day on June 30.

The scheme is being financed by the ruling right-wing Likud coalition. The coalition Government has since 1977 increased the number of West Bank settlements by more than 40, and pledges to have another 10 fully operational before voting.

Likud campaign managers believe the opposition Labour Party is vulnerable on the settlement issue because of deep internal divisions between "hawks" and "doves". It is also hoped that the tours will strengthen national resistance to any suggestion that the settlements should be dismantled.

The chief architect of the scheme is Mr Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture and former general, who sees the new settlements as one of the Government's main electoral assets. Mr Sharon said today: "It is important for Israel to see for themselves a complex problem which will become the most controversial issue between us and both Europe and America. People will see the importance of the territory and they will see the Government has met its promises—we have been working hard here for four years."

Striding up the rocky hillside will form a central part of the tour, Mr Sharon added: "It is better for Israelis to have the issue explained climbing these hills than sitting in some warm living room, eating little sandwiches. They will see these settlements are vital to Israel's existence and our security."

Among other places, voters will be shown Ariel, a settlement town intended to have a population of 50,000 Jews by the year 2000. The town, built on a hillside overlooking the sea, is being turned into an industrial area and 60 concrete houses have been completed recently.

Mr Sharon seems unconcerned by international condemnation. "Returning to Samaria is not a dream for us, it is a right. The Arabs have a right to be here and so do we," he said. "We have no intention of stopping expanding the 85 settlements which will be in place by the end of June."

Reporters, conducted on a preview of the route discovered today that the tours have already begun. One couple travelling in a convoy of 11 coaches told me that they had paid the equivalent of 10p each for the 200-mile trip.

Three killed in second militia raid on village

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, March 24

The small and poverty-ridden Shia Muslim village of At Tiri was attacked again last night and once more United Nations troops were unable to prevent gunmen from dynamiting a house near the main street, killing three of the occupants.

Scarcely a month ago the home of the village Mukhtar in the south Lebanese village was also destroyed in an explosion set off by militiamen of Major Saad Haddad.

According to the provincial authorities in Sidon this morning, it was again a gang of Major Haddad's men who entered the hamlet last night, blowing up the second house and killing three people inside—believed to be children—and injuring six others.

At Tiri lies on the southern edge of the United Nations operations area in the zone controlled by Irish troops, and for six months Major Haddad has been threatening the occupants of the village.

According to his Israeli-supported militia, Palestinian guerrillas have infiltrated the area and Major Haddad has warned the villagers to expel known leftists. On numerous occasions the United Nations has promised to protect the people of At Tiri, but their soldiers have been singularly

ineffective in preventing bombing attacks both there and in the neighbouring village of Bradchit.

Less than a week ago Major-General William Callaghan, the new United Nations Force commander in Lebanon, asked the Israelis to exercise greater control over Major Haddad's men, but his appeal seems to have had little effect.

Last year, when the militias tried to enter At Tiri, Irish troops drove them out, killing two of Major Haddad's gunmen in the process. It was that incident that led to the murder of two Irish troops in the United Nations contingent, allegedly shot dead in a "blood feud".

Soldier dies: A Nigerian United Nations soldier died in an Israeli hospital today of wounds received when Lebanese Christian right-wing militia bombed a United Nations position in the village of Kantara on March 16. United Nations sources said none of the remaining 19 wounded was in any danger.

Two Nigerian soldiers serving with the interim force in Lebanon (Unifil) were killed in the incident.

So far, 61 United Nations soldiers have died since the force was established nearly three years ago.—Reuters.

Lebanon presses for united strategy against Israel

From Tewfik Mshlawi
Beirut, March 24

With the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and the lack of sufficient international help to solve its six-year-old crisis, Lebanon is pressing the Arab League to convince a meeting of the Arab states bordering Israel.

The Lebanese Liberation Organization (PLO) would be invited but not Egypt, and the aim would be to agree on a common strategy to deal with the repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory.

The request was made in a note from Mr Fuad Buroos, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, to Mr Chadi Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, which has been meeting in Tunis at Foreign Minister level.

In his note, Mr Buroos urged the League's Secretary-General to make an effort to carry out a resolution adopted at the recent Islamic summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia, calling for the 20 Arab parties concerned to lay down a comprehensive strategy which would clearly define each country's responsibility in the common struggle against Israel.

"Lebanon has been suffering enormously from the present state of affairs and looks

forward to measures for the practical application" of the resolution, Mr Buroos said in his note released today.

In a controversial speech at the Islamic summit last January, President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, underlined the seriousness of the troubled situation in southern Lebanon and called on the Arab League to provide a way to deter Israeli attacks.

This is the first time the Lebanese Government has asked for a meeting of the Arab countries bordering Israel to discuss the request.

The Lebanese argument is that it is unfair to keep southern Lebanon an active battlefield while all is quiet on the other Arab fronts facing Israel.

Lebanon's request for Syrian and Jordanian participation in the drafting of a common strategy is designed to ensure constraints on the Palestinian guerrilla movement, which has a substantial presence in southern Lebanon.

It is difficult to see, however, how the Arab League Secretary-General could bring the parties concerned together when relations between Syria and Jordan are at their lowest ebb and the PLO continues to insist on "armed struggle" against Israel.

Condemnation of Freemasonry is seen as move to assert Vatican's authority

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 24

An authoritative attempt has been made to explain the mystery of why the Vatican has suddenly and formally resented its "brotherly" Freemasonry.

Father Giovanni Caprile, writing in the Jesuit periodical *Civiltà Cattolica*, lists many of the reasons that have been wrongly given for the Vatican's move. The idea of a new condemnation of Freemasonry has been seen, he said, variously as a manoeuvre by conservative thinkers to halt ecumenical dialogue with Protestants, whose countries had many Masons; an example of the return to more radical positions intended to put an end to the accommodating attitudes of Pope Paul VI's reign; a brake on certain episcopal conferences; and a veto on individual efforts being made at dialogue.

No doubt modesty prevented Father Caprile from adding to this list the fact that his own writings had been interpreted as a sign of a more open attitude towards a foe first condemned by the Roman Catholic Church in 1738 only 26 years after Freemasonry officially began.

The somewhat puzzling document was published on March 2 at noon without comment. It came in the form of a declaration by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the former Holy Office. In this document it was pointed out that the Congregation had written a confidential letter in July 1974 to a number of bishops' conferences containing an interpretation of the Canon

(2335) which lays down excommunication as the punishment incurred by Catholics who join the Masons.

That letter, addressed to about 20 conferences, did not remain confidential, it pointed out that consultation with bishops in countries where the question was important had brought out such a diversity of views that Rome had decided to abide by the present legislation until the revision of the whole of canon law was complete.

This letter, according to the declaration of March 2, had become public knowledge and resulted in mistaken and tendentious interpretations. The declaration was intended to correct these errors, and insisted on three main points.

First, canon law had not been modified on the issue and remained in force. Second, excommunication for Catholics who become Freemasons had not been abrogated. Third, the declaration attempted to define the limits of the field in which bishops could act on their own responsibility regarding the question of Freemasonry and, by implication, other subjects.

In recent years there have been some attempts to look

in a more dispassionate way at the Freemasons.

The West German bishops have been engaged in a long study of Freemasonry. They issued a document in April, 1980, which described this effort and gave their conclusions.

The conclusions were totally bleak. "In-depth research on the ritual and on the Masonic mentality makes it clear that it is impossible to belong to the Catholic Church and to Freemasonry at the same time."

Probably the German inquiry was of a type to upsurge Rome. Individual conferences, bishops, and scholars were taking into consideration the whole significance of the issue. But this overall view must remain the prerogative of Rome.

The declaration makes very clear that the 1974 letter left local bishops free to decide on individual cases, but there was no intention to allow episcopal conferences "to pronounce publicly with a verdict of a general character on the nature of Masonic associations."

Father Caprile himself sees the declaration as a cautionary measure "suggested by the very different conditions existing from one country to another, inspired by the need for a certain uniformity in pastoral action as not to disorientate the faithful by the need for a certain harmony which only those who have before them a global vision of the entire church can assure."

In other words, Rome still decides on an issue as large as Freemasonry.

News analysis

The 1974 letter made clear that the sanctions of Canon 2335 were directed against Catholics belonging to associations actually engaged in conspiring against the church.

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Libyan influence grows in war-shattered Chad

Ndjamena, March 24.—There is no water supply and no post office or telephone service in Chad, electricity functions only for 12 hours a day, the Central Bank is closed and the Government is broke.

But Chad, ravaged by a devastating nine-month civil war which ended last December after a controversial Libyan intervention, is trying hard to dig itself out of the ruins.

Plagued by drought and one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad is now even more impoverished and the work of reconstruction will be enormous. The unhealed wounds of battles between the warring factions can be seen everywhere.

The control tower at the airport has been hit many times by light artillery, but miraculously it is still standing and working.

The main airport terminal is a complete wreck, with no roof, girders twisting crazily, and a main staircase being function within severe limits.

work at charred desks surrounded by fire-blackened walls.

Along the road to the city centre, vendors sell petrol in big bottles because the petrol stations are all closed. They have brought the petrol across the Shari river in pirogues from the Cameroon town of Mousseri.

Nothing is left of the cathedral except its striking, arched facade with a giant cross surrounded by bullet holes. The rest is rubble, the result of a direct hit.

The barracks of the National Guard, the Palace of Justice and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications all appear to have been gutted and abandoned. The rectory of the University of Chad is an empty shell. The American Embassy and thousands of homes, businesses, and restaurants are in ruins.

Mr Noel Daillo, the head waiter, proudly shows the shell-hole in his plates cabinet and the bullet-pocked ceiling, but his dining room functions well with a limited menu and serves an excellent local beer which managed to survive the civil war.

The hotel resumed operating after the civil war ended with help from Libya, which provided sheets, towels and curtains. Mr Daillo said.

Another sign of life here is the local market, which is bustling although supplies are limited. The economy is paralysed, however, because the Central Bank is closed. Local businesses and private banks are waiting for it to reopen before making any further moves themselves. In the meantime, there is an acute shortage of currency in circulation.

Chad's French-backed CFA franc, used here and elsewhere in French-speaking Africa, are being spent importing essential supplies from Kousséri. This has meant that the Libyan dinar, now circulating here, is assuming increasing importance as a means of trading.

Newspaper museum opened near Paris

From Charles Hargrave
Paris, March 24

This year is the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first French newspaper, the *Gazette of Theophrastus Renaudot*, and the hundred anniversary of the law of freedom of the press.

It seems appropriate, then, that it should be to mark the opening of a annex of the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Centre for Conservation and Reproduction of the Press, in the hill-fortified town of Provins, of Paris. It bears the name of André François-Poncet, a noted journalist, and of the town.

The centre is housed in a restored convent, the Cisterciens, founded 1248 by Thibaut, Comte Champagne, on the Mon Catherine, just outside the medieval upper town.

The convent suffered from war and pillage in the ages and became a home for the poor. It ended much the worse for war, old people's home in present century, but vacated in 1974 when a home was built.

Restoration work began 1979 and is not yet complete. But 36,500 sq ft of floor area is already available, including the thirteenth-century house. The chapel of the convent has yet to be renovated. The cost, which amounts to 15m francs (£1.36m), borne by the state, the town and, for a small part, the National Press Federation.

The inauguration ceremony on Monday was attended by three ministers, including Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice and mayor of Paris; Mme Saurier-Seine, Minister of Culture; and Mr Jean François-Poncet, Minister for Foreign Affairs and son of the late Ambassador who died in 1954.

Every year the centre receives about 30,000 copies of newspapers and magazines, million and a half paper newsprint.

The accommodation area at the Bibliothèque Nationale and its annex at Vers, opened in 1934, is no longer adequate.

For a start, the centre houses 10,000 copies of newspapers now at Vers, including the *Gazette of the first Paris daily, Le Journal de Paris* of 1777, *L'Ami du Peuple* of 1791, *Marat's paper: Le Vieux Cordelier*, 1793; *Le Moniteur Universel*, 1809; *Le Constitutionnel*, 1830; and *La Rue de Valois*, which was only a few

Three microfilms will be made of each daily newspaper for preservation, one reproduction and one for sale. They will be kept in air-conditioned rooms.

The most difficult task is conservation of the original copies. Owing to the poor quality of newspaper paper, high acid content, they very rapidly if exposed to splits at the fold and fall pieces in the long run, Therese Kleinendienst, the secretary-general of the Bibliothèque Nationale, explained. They are treated in a special laboratory which will be opened early.

Four sentences to death for Mauritanian colon

Nouakchott, March 24. Four Mauritanian officers accused of taking part in a failed coup here eight days ago were sentenced to death by a special court today.

They were Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Salim C. Sidi and Lieutenant-Colonel Abdelkader Ould Bah, said to be the coup leaders, Lieutenant Niang Mustafa and Lieutenant Doudou Seck. Five non-military officers were sentenced to hard labour for 10 years.

President Muhammad Kh. Ould Haïdalla has 24 hours in which he can commute death sentences.

The two senior officers were reported to have lived recently in Morocco, where they led an alliance of groups opposed to the Nouakchott Government.

Mauritania has attempted coup and several diplomatic relations with Morocco have been severed any involvement.—Reuters.

Chad's few factories, life-blood of the country, were smashed as well during fighting. "I used to have a factory making small metal mill grinding flour," one businessman said. "It is finished but I cannot import the equipment I need to start again."

The Government has not paid its employees for months because it has no funds and the reports that Libya offered to pay all Chad's employees for six months.

Without Western aid, the influence of Libya is certain to grow here. Libyan soldiers have been seen frequently in Ndjamena but they are not in command of the situation. The running of the capital appears to be in the hands of the Chadians.

The Libyan presence appears to be a force for stability for many Chadians, who respect the value of the Libyan assistance, wonder what will happen when the Chad Government decides that the Libyan presence is no longer required.—Reuters.

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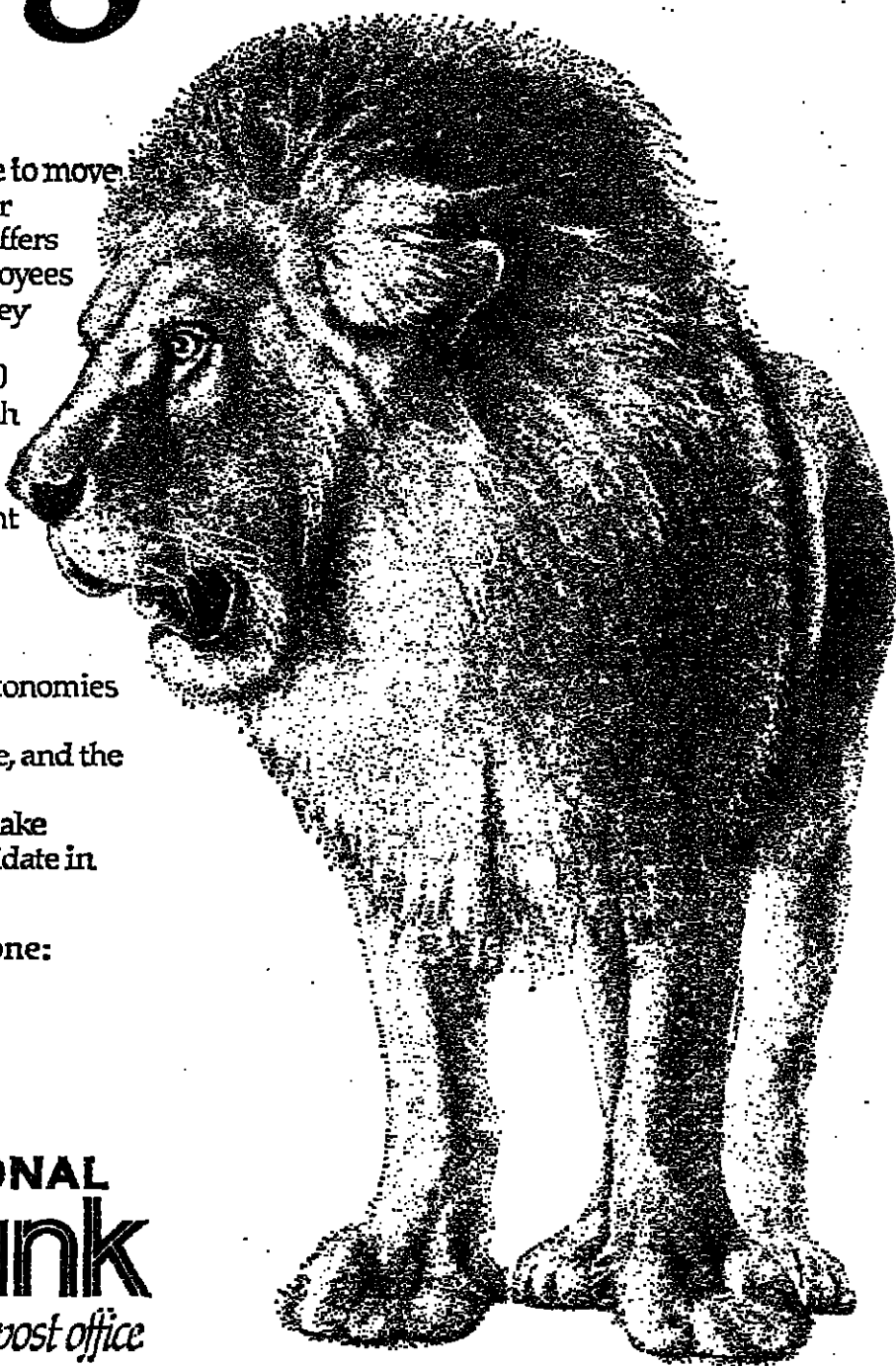
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Differences over Greek-Turkish arms balance hamper Athens negotiations on US bases

From Mario Modiano
Athens, March 24

American and Greek negotiators in the Athens talks on the future status of United States military bases in Greece are digging in their heels, although the talks have been accelerated to meet the Easter deadline set by the Greek Government.

With the negotiations entering their third month, the diplomatic and military teams meet daily. However, important divergences remain on the actual status of the bases, as well as on the extent and nature of the military aid Greece is to receive in return.

The Greek Government has told the Americans that the new agreement must be signed in time for ratification by Parliament before the Orthodox Easter recess in four weeks.

Otherwise the talks would have to be postponed until after the general election which is due in the autumn.

Evidently, the Government does not wish to turn the controversial question of the United States military presence in Greece into an electoral issue.

The Greek timetable brings pressure to bear on the United States Government to show greater flexibility or take the risk of having to negotiate later, perhaps with an unimpeachable left-wing government.

So far the American negotiators are unwilling to give ground in the face of this

potential threat, arguing that they also have some non-negotiable positions.

The crucial issue is the extent of the United States military support for Greece. The Americans seem willing to exercise their "best efforts" to secure what is known as Greece's "wish list" of military equipment. They refuse, however, to be tied down to a specific list or to peg it to Turkey's list to maintain a fixed ratio of aid to both countries.

The Greek Government is pressing for a formal American commitment to a seven-to-10 ratio (in Turkey's favour) on the ground that this would preserve the balance of power in the Aegean.

The Reagan Administration told Congress this week that it did not believe that aid should be determined by precise ratios, although it had no objection to an increase of United States military credits to Greece from \$250m (£118m) to \$280m to keep a seven-to-10 ratio to Turkey's \$400m.

There are chances that this hurdle will be overcome by some American assurance in favour of a military balance between the countries in the region, "including" between Greece and Turkey. This is a formula already accepted by Congress, and it sets the Greek-Turkish arms race within the broader context of an East-West military equilibrium.

The issue may require some political decisions on a higher level. A visit to Athens by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, should not be ruled out.

Once the problem of balance is resolved, there is bound to be less reluctance to broach such topics as command and control of the bases. The Americans agree that the military installations should be placed under a Greek commander, whose presence should, however, in no way interfere with the normal chain of command of the United States forces stationed at the base.

The Greek side wants the Greek commander to have effective control of all activities in these installations, in order to safeguard Greek sovereignty and ensure that the bases are not involved in non-Nato operations.

The Greeks insist on a formula that would limit the use of the bases to "obligations arising out of the North Atlantic Treaty", as stipulated also in the United States-Turkish agreement. The Americans would prefer a more flexible definition allowing the bases to be used for operations serving mutual defence interests.

This is important in view of American plans for a Rapid Deployment Force for eventual use in the Gulf, in which case the bases in Greece would acquire particular relevance.



Bus passengers in El Salvador waiting to be searched by troops looking for weapons and guerrilla suspects.

Another \$63.5m American aid for El Salvador

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 24

The United States announced today that it will provide El Salvador with an additional \$63.5m (£28m) of economic assistance to help the tiny Central American republic cope with urgent problems caused by the continuing civil war

between government forces and leftist guerrillas.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said that the additional aid would bring to some \$125.5m the total amount of economic help given to El Salvador during the current financial year.

24-hour truce: El Salvador's main left-wing guerrilla group

announced a halt to all attacks today in memory of the killing of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Mgr Oscar Romero, a year ago (Reuters reports from San Salvador).

A clandestine radio broadcast by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Movement (FMLN), the biggest of El Salvador's several guerrilla groups,

said it would not launch any attacks for 24 hours from midnight last night.

The broadcast came after an army statement that troops had been placed on the highest state of alert to counter the possibility of increased guerrilla attacks. There was no immediate army comment on the FMLN announcement.

Right angry at S African election ban

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, March 24

The disqualification of five candidates of the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) from South Africa's general election on April 29 was described today as undemocratic by a leader of the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

Under new electoral laws, candidates of parties not represented in Parliament must submit petitions bearing signatures of 300 registered voters with their nominations.

Nomination courts which sat yesterday ruled out the candidature of five HNP candidates. The HNP, which is mounting its biggest effort to win a seat in Parliament, is to challenge the decisions in court tomorrow.

Mr Brian Bamford, chief whip of the official opposition PFP and an election candidate, has attacked the new 300-signature law. It was introduced by Dr Connie Mulder, former Minister of Information and the Interior, who is fighting to regain a seat in Parliament as leader of the National Conservative Party (NCP).

Mr Bamford said the new system was undemocratic and discriminatory, and contravened the principles of the secret ballot by disclosing the affiliations of voters.

The HNP is particularly concerned about the disqualification of its candidate for the Transvaal constituency of Rustenburg where Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, was heckled last week until plainclothes police moved in to stop disturbances.

Blacks fear Reagan tilt to Pretoria

From David Cross
Washington, March 24

Embarrassed officials at the State Department here are trying to find out why a highly controversial encounter between Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative at the United Nations, and South Africa's leading military intelligence officer has just come to their attention more than a week after it took place.

The disclosure of the encounter, which was originally denied by a State Department spokesman, has upset black African governments, who have long feared a tilt by President Reagan towards Pretoria.

American government policy since 1963, when the United States banned arms sales to

South Africa, has been to forbid consultations on military relations between the two countries.

When news of the visit to the United States by Lieutenant-General P. Van Der Westerhuizen, the head of South Africa's military intelligence, first became public last week, the State Department claimed that he and four companions had met only relatively junior American government officials.

In any case, the spokesman said last week the South Africans had returned home when the State Department discovered their real identity. Yesterday, however, the same spokesman was forced to admit that he had been wrong in denying any high-level meeting involving the South Africans.

He said the State Department was looking into the confusion.

The embarrassment felt by the State Department about the whole visit is deeper than it might otherwise have been because the new Administration is in the midst of working out its policy towards problems in southern Africa. It had already upset black African governments by allowing a delegation of pro-South African delegates from Namibia to visit Washington for talks with prominent right-wing Senators like Mr Jesse Helms, of North Carolina, and Mr Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina.

The Namibia delegation was led by Mr Dirk Mudge, head of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. He also met Mrs Kirkpatrick.

Explosion at Tehran police HQ

Tehran, March 24—An explosion damaged part of the headquarters of Iran's network of revolutionary committees in Tehran early today, but there were no casualties.

A policeman outside the building said that a bomb had caused the explosion, but the official Pars news agency blamed an electrical short circuit.

Revolutionary committees were established in Iran after the 1979 revolution as a parallel police force, organized on a district level. They have wide powers of arrest and investigation and can hand offenders over to revolutionary tribunals for trial.

The heat of the explosion damaged ammunition stored in the building, causing a further series of explosions heard over much of central Tehran.

One wing of the headquarters in an office block, adjoining the former Chamber of the Majlis (Parliament), was blackened by smoke and appeared destroyed. But Pars, apparently trying to play down the incident, said there were no casualties or serious damage.

The explosion occurred early this morning and traffic was light because of the Iranian new year holiday. The police tried to keep people away from the scene, while flak-jacketed youths, apparently members of the local committees, patrolled the building armed with automatic weapons.

Hawkish Sir Ian Gilmour denounces weak West

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Vowing that Britain and the West must be prepared to resist Soviet expansion wherever it occurs, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and government spokesman on foreign affairs, last night gave a hawkish speech saying "there must be a threat of force must be met with the threat of force".

Sir Ian made it clear that he was speaking of action outside as well as inside, the Nato area.

Speaking to a meeting of the Bow Group last night, he declared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a "consequence of too many years of weak resistance by the West".

Reactions were changing. The West and non-aligned countries appreciated the Soviet threat, while even in Eastern Europe "the Polish people have demonstrated very clearly that whoever else may be overruled by Moscow they are not".

The West's greatest strength remained the "instruments of peace", Sir Ian said, but he noted that some people in the West were still equivocal over meeting force with the threat of force.

With reference to the 1945-49 Greek civil war and the 1950 invasion of South Korea, he said: "I make no apology for reminding you of the choices we as a nation and we in the West faced 30 and more years ago."

"Is the Soviet subjugation of

Afghanistan army more legitimate than the Red Army's subjugation of Eastern Europe in the 1940s?"

"Is the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia less brutal a use of force than Kim Il Sung's?"

"Is not the security of our oil supplies as vitally important to us now as it was 30 years ago?"

"In short, we must not allow our defenses to drop and must be prepared to resist Soviet expansion wherever it occurs."

Sir Ian said the current "cold peace" benefited no one, and he said it was important that there should be a "high-level communication between leaders of East and West".

He voiced some differences with American policy on El Salvador and on rebuilding missile strengths.

On arms control agreements, Sir Ian said: "We do not believe the West should seek to regain military superiority over the Warsaw Pact powers. That is a stated objective of the Reagan Administration."

Senior Tory backbenchers last night tabled a Commons motion welcoming the Reagan Administration's decision to seek freedom of action in Angola.

Among the signatories deploring the continued presence of Cuban forces there were Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, Mr John Biggs-Davison, Mr Julian Amery, and other senior members of the Conservatives' backbench foreign affairs and defence committee.

Every time the price goes up, the queues outside shops grow longer

Soviet Union mesmerized by lust for gold

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 24

All that glitters on a Russian nowadays is gold. The self-contented young man on the train has his shirt half unbuttoned to reveal a large gold chain. On his fingers he wears huge gold rings. Altogether he is worth more than a thousand roubles (£330).

The shop assistant wrapping up parcels moves her hands in a slow, curious way, keeping her palms down. She is showing off the eight gold rings she is wearing. The young Georgian flashes a smile to reveal a mouth full of gold. He has not been in any accident—but persuaded the dentist to remove all his healthy front teeth and crown them with gold.

A mania for the yellow metal has gripped the country. Outside every jewelry shop there are long queues for gold. It is worn by men and women alike, at home and at work, with smart clothes and with jeans. Nowadays a Soviet woman is not considered dressed unless she has a flash of gold about her—even when she goes swimming she dives in wearing three chains and several rings to set off her bikini.

The newspapers have been unable to explain the new gold rush, and the authorities are doing their best to stop it; but every time the price of gold—produced from the Soviet mines whose output is a secret—goes up, the queues for it grow longer. The husband who cannot deck out his wife in the metal to which she is accustomed is likely to provoke a crisis. News papers are breaking up because wives were unable to afford as many rings as those worn by colleagues at work.

The craze started four or five years ago and has been gathering pace. At first it appeared to be connected with the trend to invest surplus cash in expensive durable objects—carpets, crystal, antique furniture and rare books, and the state naturally saw the way to a quick profit. Gold prices were raised successively in 1977, 1978 and 1979. In the past two years the metal has gone up 140 per cent in price.

But this only spurred the demand. Because gold was expensive and difficult to get hold of, it conferred that much more prestige to own and wear it. It was not simply a sign of wealth, but of status, connections, the ability to get what cannot be bought. To wear gold showed you had *blat*—influence.

Soviet women will happily skimp on food to save up for gold. Even schoolgirls, infected by the fever at home, appear in class in ear-rings and brooches, causing many a bitter tear from jealous classmates.

The state jewelry factories have naturally found it profitable to encourage the fashion. Silver has virtually disappeared from shop counters. All stones are mounted in gold, and the famous semi-precious stones from the Urals, enamelware pendants and the amber brooches are no longer to be found.

Soviet newspapers have protested that the fever will never be cured as long as only gold is found to decorate the female form. The chief engineer of the state jewelry enterprise re-

torred a few days ago that modern designs were more varied than ever, that semi-precious stones were all on sale and that more than 3,000 different types of jewelry were now on hand.

But the newspaper commented bluntly: "It is pleasant to read about such abundance, but it would be more pleasant to see it in the shops!"

In Russia, where there is a shortage, there are queues. Last summer *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth newspaper, mused philosophically on the old kerchiefed grandmothers who stood in line for gold for their daughters and granddaughters: "They stand patiently as only their generation knows how. They used to stand in line for hours for bread, and they learn patience. Now that experience is serving them well: they are queuing for gold."

"Yes, we live much better now than we used to; but just think how many worthwhile things could be done in that time and with that money if all this wealth were used intelligently!"

MEPs begin work as staff strike is suspended

From David Wood
Strasbourg, March 24

After more than one hitch, the special plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg opened a day late today, but the strike of more than half the 2,000 staff is so far only suspended.

Everything now depends on a general staff meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow morning to vote on some modest concessions offered today by the Parliament's managerial bureau.

Mr Julian Priestley, the moderate strike leader, and his principal colleagues admitted to the Strasbourg picket line that "it will be bloody difficult" to end the strike. But Mr Priestley will recommend acceptance of the Parliament's offer that parliamentary committees and party groups will be free to decide to meet in Luxembourg, rather than Brussels. Parliament has apparently

not yielded on its principle that the staff cannot dictate where MEPs shall meet. Strike leaders say that the leaders of two party groups (the Christian Democrats and Liberals) have already agreed to use Luxembourg, and the communist group leader will put the proposal to his members; but the Anglo-Danish European Democratic group, like the big Socialist group, will not consider deserting Brussels.

In a multilingual Parliament, availability of interpreters is the decisive factor. Twice today the Parliament's sitting had to be suspended.

The staff strike appears to have had one or two beneficial consequences. Both strike leaders and MEPs have become more anxious about the damage being done to the European Parliament, and negotiations between the two sides are being conducted in a more enlightened spirit than last week.

Pakistan to deport six Western mercenaries

From Trevor Fishlock
Peshawar, March 24

The Pakistani Government tonight issued orders for the arrest and deportation of six men who apparently arrived here to offer their services as mercenaries on the side of the Afghan resistance.

A government statement said the decision to expel the men was "in conformity with the policy of the Government that it will not act as a conduit for arms and men".

The presence of the six men in the North-West Frontier Province was disclosed at the weekend after three of them talked to reporters in Islamabad about their hopes of joining guerrilla bands fighting against Soviet and Afghan forces.

Two of the biggest of the resistance groups based in Peshawar made it clear they wanted nothing to do with mercenaries.

The presence of the men, five British and an American, is an embarrassment to the Pakistanis, who are acutely aware of their propaganda value to the Russians and the Kabul Government.

Some of the men have been staying at hotels in Peshawar, trying to make contact with resistance groups.

\$500m aid: As part of its continuing campaign to bolster its allies in South-West Asia against possible Soviet aggression, the United States has decided to offer Pakistan some \$500m (£227m) of military and economic aid for next year. (David Cross writes from Washington).

This is more than twice the annual assistance offered by President Carter to the Pakistani Government a year ago. Washington's last offer of about \$400m over a two-year period was rejected by President Zia-ul-Haq as "peanuts". It is not yet clear here what the fate of the proposed package will be.

Administration officials said that Pakistan was being offered about \$400m of weapons sales credits and some \$100m of economic aid during the next fiscal year which begins this autumn.

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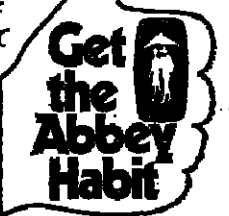
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PARLIAMENT, March 24, 1981

Minister backs idea of training with Army for young unemployed

House of Commons

Many young people would like the opportunity of spending a bit of time with the armed forces. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

He stated that the Manpower Services Commission was currently considering proposals for a pilot scheme under which 1,000 unemployed young people would receive training in the Army for a period of up to six months. He expressed his views of the commission shortly.

Mr Frank Allana (Salford, East, Lab): Do not school leavers need industrial training, not military training, training for life and not killing? What kind of system is it that offers 17-year-olds the choice of being unemployed or going into the Army?

Mr Prior: He should not allow his prejudices to run away with him. This would be an entirely voluntary scheme. There are many young people who would like to have a bit of time in her Majesty's forces.

I am by no means certain that the MSC will ever recommend this scheme, but I have no doubt that I know of many young people who would like to take on a period of time serving the Queen where they will learn loyalty, self-discipline, respect and esprit de corps. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Prior: Apart from all those estimable qualities they can have training for a whole range of skills which they are people more likely to get through this scheme than many others.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab): Would he even the matter a little more seriously than that?

There will be objections if the idea of this scheme were associated with what loosely might be called 'square bashing'. Will he look at the difficulties that might be available for apprentices in the Royal dockyards?

Mr Prior: I hope nobody will think I am not taking this matter seriously. I have said emphatically that we should look carefully at this sort of scheme.

There are some difficulties about the level of recruitment and the level of training in the Royal Navy dockyards, but generally speaking we need to encourage as many apprenticeships there as we can afford.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Lab): What the minister has just said has many serious implications. We want to know a lot more about the proposed scheme before we give it any kind of support.

Will he undertake that if the MSC goes ahead and approves the scheme, he will make a statement in the House so that we can go over the matter thoroughly before committing young people to a scheme of this kind?

Mr Prior: I have no doubt that I know of many young people who would like to take on a period of time serving the Queen where they will learn loyalty, self-discipline, respect and esprit de corps. (Conservative cheers.)

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Treasury have not forecast 3.5 million unemployed

Reports that the Treasury had forecast 3,500,000 unemployed by 1982 or 1983 were wrong, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said during exchanges on the latest unemployment figures. The Government was giving support through various schemes, he added, to about 1,214,000 people.

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C) stated that at March 12, the provisional number of people registered as unemployed in the United Kingdom was 2,454,712.

The seasonally adjusted rise of 77,000 announced today (Tuesday) confirms the trend that the rate of increase in recent months is slower than it was at the end of last year. Despite this better trend, we remain deeply concerned at the rapid increase and high level.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall, North, Lab): These figures are an appalling indictment of this Government.

Is it true that the Treasury have forecast unemployment will rise to 3,500,000 in 1983? How long does he intend to go along with such disastrous policies?

Mr Prior: No it is not true. The Treasury have forecast 3,500,000 by 1982 or 1983. The figures are still serious, but

whether we get over our problems quickly or not depends on the state of the economy. Mr James Marshall (Leicester, South, Lab): How many further jobs will be destroyed as a consequence of the Budget speech?

Mr Prior: It is not necessary for any further jobs to be destroyed as a result of the Budget speech. The reduction in interest rates which has taken place together with the likely further interest rate reductions in line with the policy, are following could well result in more jobs being available than would otherwise be the case.

Mr Michael Ancram (Edinburgh, South, C): While welcoming the news today that the overall unemployment figure in Scotland has fallen this month and while not wishing to read too much into a single month's figures, do they not wonder at the falling unemployment of the Scottish economy? That bodes well for the future.

Mr Prior: Yes, we are pleased that the increase in unemployment in Scotland over recent months was reversed. It has been in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Scotland does have the advantage of the North Sea oil, but it is a good sign that at last it is beginning to

show some benefit from investment in the past.

Mr James Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): As there are many women workers in industry like the potteries who do not work when they are unemployed, would they agree that the real figure of unemployment is now over three million?

Mr Prior: That is the way any responsible Minister would either fight in the Cabinet to reverse these economic policies or resign.

Mr Prior: I do not accept that he has got the figure right. There are always a number of people who do not register when they lose their jobs and there have always been a number of people who do register who are not available for work.

The Government is giving support through various schemes to something like 1,214,000 people in jobs, but through temporary and short-term working schemes. This shows clearly that the Government does care about the level of unemployment.

Mr Kenneth Timmins (Wycombe, Bucks, Lab): The Government has contributed massively to the present level of unemployment.

The Green Paper on immunities is necessary to improve these practices. Would such legislation be possible within the next Queen's Speech?

Mr Prior: It is not only trade union practices but other practices as well. The Government must take responsibility over a period of 20 years or more.

As for trade unions there is no doubt that if we go on paying out more and more money for little extra work we shall run ourselves into even greater problems of uncompetitiveness.

In the last 10 years output has increased by 1 per cent a year—10 per cent in 10 years—and during that 10 years we have paid ourselves 350 per cent more money. That is the way to ruin and high unemployment.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab): One of the additional contributory factors to the scandalous level of unemployment is the buying policy of the Government departments and of huge industries such as British Leyland, which are being financed by British taxpayers' capital.

For example, the Ministry of Defence has bought more than £100 million worth of goods from abroad that have previously been purchased from textile companies in this country.

Even in the last second day of British Leyland has placed an order in France where that order

has always been placed with a textile company in Britain.

Mr Prior: Certainly Government departments have instructions that wherever possible they are to buy British goods.

If there are any cases such as that where any MP believes that goods are being bought from abroad that could be bought from home, he should let me know about it and I will see that the necessary action is taken.

Mr Nigel Forman (Sutton, Cheshire, C): In the Manpower Services Commission able to do enough to train and retrain many of the unemployed?

The total number of trained and retrained, according to my figures, 92,000 which represents one-third of 1 per cent of the working population.

Mr Prior: Most of the training needs to be done by employers on their own premises. Where they are unable to carry out this training it has to be subsidised and aided by training by the MSC.

I am not satisfied that we are doing enough training, but I am satisfied that it is not necessarily the provision of Government money that is needed but employ-

ers should recognize that. We come out of this recession with a better training than we had before. When does this training have to be further shorted?

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Lab): When does this training have to be further shorted?

Mr Prior: I can give no answer to that. More than the Government were able to do when they thought that employment would fall to the level that it has reached.

The Government's economic policy is in ruins. It is more than likely that it will be replaced by a more realistic policy in the next few months.

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Majority of 164 for regulatory powers of Lloyd's Bill

Sir Graham Page (Crosby, C), the sponsor of the Lloyd's Bill, which is designed to improve the self-regulation of the insurance market, said today that he was confident that members of Lloyd's to refrain from voting on the second reading.

Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Blackburn, Lab), on a point of order, said there was an issue about whether MPs who were members of Lloyd's had a direct pecuniary interest which was involved in the vote on the Bill.

Mr Prior: I will raise this on the adjournment. This is the thin end of the wedge.

There were 53 MPs who were members of Lloyd's, including 3 members of the Government. Some were brokers or underwriters, members who put their personal wealth at risk. Some had had £100,000 at least, which was put at risk.

For members of Lloyd's to vote on the Bill would be inconsistent with the standards of public life which the public had come to expect.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said that if any MP had the slightest doubt about whether he had a pecuniary interest in the matter he should not vote.

If he did vote, he did have the risk that the House could disallow the vote afterwards. He was obliged to Sir Graham Page for his statement.

Later Sir Graham Page moved the second reading of the Bill which would establish a Council of Lloyd's to define its functions and powers.

The Council would control the management and regulation of Lloyd's and would be empowered by law to include those dealing with admission, suspension and disciplining of members of Lloyd's brokers, underwriters and others.

He said the Bill was promoted by the Society of Lloyd's which was incorporated by statute as long ago as 1871. The community of Lloyd's earned an overseas earnings of £53m a year and provided employment for 72,000 people.

Its constitution had proved important in respect of its effective control and advancement of the society's proper functions in the insurance market.

The procedure was cumbersome. Under the Bill a new Council of Lloyd's would be constituted to replace the existing committee. Also cumbersome was the disciplinary procedure, and the promoters of the Bill wanted to give the Council power to set up proper disciplinary bodies.

Just as important was the power to make by-laws for the regulation of the insurance market. Lloyd's could not control the insurance market unless it had regulatory powers. It was asking for power to allow it to govern all those who operated within the market.

Lloyd's sought in this Bill to go further than the insurance given to the ordinary company servant under the Companies Act. They sought to protect not only their own interests but the interests of the public.

This needed careful consideration and consultation. He was grateful to Sir Graham Page for his statement and to the members of the House who had supported the Bill.

Lloyd's and the Council so that consultation could take place. He gave an undertaking on behalf of the Bill's promoters that they would not use the power to insert an amendment providing for by-laws for by-laws to be made about immunity.

Lloyd's had been told that it was not to be operative until it had been embodied in an order in council which would require the affirmative approval of both Houses of Parliament.

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without destroying the character of the institution. There might be a case for changing individual provisions of the Bill, but for its integrity, it was essential that it should be passed in its entirety.

The proposed amendment on legal immunity would allow the matter to be fully and properly considered, if by-law on immunity was adopted by special resolution, the Secretary of State would be prepared to consider it and if satisfied to bring it before the Council and Parliament for approval.

This was the quickest way for the new regulatory machinery to be established. It enabled consultation with all interested parties to start soon and required for Parliament the right to decide, in the light of the evidence, what degree of immunity was right.

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Lloyd's sought in this Bill to go further than the insurance given to the ordinary company servant under the Companies Act. They sought to protect not only their own interests but the interests of the public.

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Lloyd's and the Council so that consultation could take place. He gave an undertaking on behalf of the Bill's promoters that they would not use the power to insert an amendment providing for by-laws for by-laws to be made about immunity.

Lloyd's had been told that it was not to be operative until it had been embodied in an order in council which would require the affirmative approval of both Houses of Parliament.

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SPORT

East meets west, except when it comes to the men's singles final

By Richard Streeton

Despite the numerous other events that have mushroomed in recent times the All-England Badminton Championships, which start at Wembley today, have maintained all their prestige and aura. The five titles which will be decided in Sunday's finals represent the most prestigious of badminton players throughout the world who want to win more than any other.

These are the 71st All-England Championships which began in 1899, and which this year have drawn entries from a record 23 nations and carry £10,500 in prize money. The recent trend for the rivalry between Europe and Asia to provide the backbone is more emphatic than ever. Kipling would have had no cause to write his celebrated ballad about East and West and the rivalry never meeting if he had been a present-day badminton enthusiast.

It is hard to see the men's singles champion being other than an Indonesian though which of his brilliant players will win the title is uncertain. The Indonesian with Rudi Hartono, the eight times former champion, showing signs of returning to the top of the world, is the favourite.

Luis Pongpon, the most talented of the younger Indonesian school, who won last week's Swedish Open, might conceivably seize his chance this time.

Prakash Padukone, of India, who by touch and guile destroyed Liem in last year's final, seeded only sixth this year and can probably be discounted. He has had an unhappy winter settling in his new Copenhagen home and his form is not what it was.

England have Ray Stevens and Kevin Jolly seeded seventh and eighth but it would be unrealistic to expect them to do more than to reach the last eight. The worst of Stevens' long-standing heel injury is behind him but he remains short of hard court practice. The draw has provided an exciting first-round meeting today, Delfs, of Denmark, and Fleming, of England, who have both beaten past world champions, Delfs, in not a single match, is in opposition to the present and future world champion, Liem, in the second round.

Lene Køppen, a Copenhagenist, seeking her third successive title, once again carries European hopes in the women's singles.

If the seedings work out Miss Köppen could face her hardest challenge yet in the final from the little-known South Korean, Sun-Ey Hwang.

Jane Webster, who is seeded seventh, has the best chance of reaching the later stages among the English women in the absence of Gillian Gilks, who has only entered the women's and mixed doubles. Miss Webster was originally due to start with a tough second-round match against Hiroe Yuki of Japan, four times champion of the world, but she has been refused to allow her to play.

Mrs Gilks and her doubles partner, Paula Kivington, who remain such an absentee from England team lists, will be closely watched in the women's doubles for the first time since they have been seeded third. Four times in four meetings this winter they have beaten England's world champions, Nora Perry and Miss Webster, but have failed themselves to lesser combinations.

Michael Tredgett and Mrs Perry could retain the mixed doubles for England.

Zhirov and Miss Hess are dominant

By Richard Streeton

Alexander Zhirov, of the Soviet Union won his second consecutive World Cup giant slalom yesterday but Ingegerd Stenmark, of Sweden, stayed ahead of all the other contenders in the overall standings.

Zhirov, a 22-year-old from Dnestrov, near Moscow, was fastest in the first run in Borovets, Bulgaria, and clocked a time of 2:10.39. Stenmark was second and Joel Gaspoz, of Switzerland, was third, while the United States' was fifth and collected only one point.

Stenmark still leads with 250 points to 254 but he cannot improve his overall score, whereas Zhirov has two more races to add to his total, a slalom today and a giant slalom in Laax, Switzerland, on Saturday. Stenmark and Zhirov are sure of first and second places in the overall standings.

A precise performance in the first leg gave Zhirov his victory in today's race. "I like the hard snow," he said, "and I am happy to have won a second time against Stenmark."

In a women's world cup slalom in Wangs-Bäsd, Erica, Sweden, Zhirov's sister, Zina, was the winner, a record in the specialty she has dominated since the season resumed in January.

Miss Hess, a 19-year-old, celebrated her nineteenth birthday only two weeks ago, showed her invincibility yesterday even on snow battered by rain throughout the night and early in the morning.

Second in the first leg behind Daniela Zini, of Italy, Miss Hess came back in the second to leave her rival trailing more than a second. The following race was won by Maria Walliser, of Switzerland, who is 17. Her third place was her best result of the season, confirming that she is an

all round skier, capable of shining in the slaloms as in the downhill.

The special slalom replaced one last month at Maribor, cancelled because of a strike by the competitors, with a slalom in which Perrine Pellet, of France, in third place in the standings in this special slalom.

BOROVETS: Men's giant slalom: 1. Zhirov, 2:10.39; 2. Stenmark, 2:11.00; 3. Gaspoz, 2:11.00; 4. Walliser, 2:11.00; 5. Hess, 2:11.00.

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Rugby League Leagues in dispute over youth scheme

By Keith Macklin

Relations between the Rugby League and the British Amateur Rugby League Association have reached a disastrously low level after the rejection by a subcommittee of the RL of a five-point plan covering youth teams and amateur players. For some time there has been dispute over the practice of some clubs establishing under-17 and youth teams in the words of BARLA officials, "a cream off the best amateur players."

After several runs, the RL took the drastic step of withdrawing financial aid to clubs in membership of BARLA. When this was reached, it was decided that, in the interests of the game, a plan should be formulated by David Oxley, secretary general of the RL, after consultation with BARLA representatives and senior club officials.

Tom Keaveney, the BARLA secretary, has issued a strong statement declaring that talks between the two bodies have now broken down after the rejection of the plan. Mr Keaveney alleges that the RL has been "selfish" in its interest of those clubs who take the best players from the amateur leagues. He adds that it is the ambition of some youth clubs to "take over entire youth teams."

An attempt to solve the situation was made last night at a "colours agreement" in 1976, but Mr Keaveney accuses senior clubs of failing to honour their agreement. He adds that it is the ambition of some youth clubs to "take over entire youth teams."

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A woman who is ahead of her time

Joyce Smith, a 43-year-old housewife who runs marathons in two and a half hours

At an age when most women are regarding middle age with resigned distaste, Joyce Smith is preparing to run 26 miles and 385 yards through the centre of London. At 43, she is the third fastest woman marathon runner, holds the United Kingdom and Commonwealth records and has won five marathons in seven attempts.

She will be expected to be the first woman home in the London marathon, sponsored by Gillette, on Sunday, although she will be pleased to come in somewhere in the two hundreds. There will be even more men behind her than ahead of her as more than 7,500 athletes have entered the event, including about 330 women.

Usually the Watford housewife, who combines training with work and brings up two girls, Lisa, aged 12, and Lia, runs 50 to 70 miles a week but when she is building up to a big event, like the London, she runs between 80 and 90. "I am not fully fit," she warns. "I don't want to be fully fit for marathon running at this time of year. I have more important things to do. I just want to be part of the first one."

She has put herself down as a 2 hours 35 minutes competitor, although her best, in winning the Tokyo marathon last year, was 2 hours 27 minutes 27 seconds, a time bettered only by Grete Waitz, of Norway, and Patricia Catalano, of the United States. Mrs Smith finds women-only marathons harder because there are more tactics and because "you become involved each time from the word go. In a mixed marathon, once you get going, you might not see another woman competitor."

She was 40 when she took up marathon running, a stress fracture in 1978 having persuaded her and her husband and coach, Bryan, to give up her track career. "I could have retired then but I was always the marathon. It was always something I wanted to do," she says. "This is the thing of marathon running, the achieving of it. Because it is such a long event, it is something just to have done."

When Mrs Smith began her athletics career, in 1954, women were confined



Joyce Smith: "not fully fit"

Last year, 58 achieved the target. Mrs Smith, herself, wants to go inside 2hr 30min.

It seems that she will go down in the history of the sport as the runner who always just missed out. "When I was in my early twenties, when I suppose I was at my peak, I wasn't an 800 metres runner and I knew it, although I did get an international rest of 800 metres. Perhaps that's why I've stayed in for so long. I think in the marathon, age doesn't matter so much."

She can look forward to a women's marathon in the new European Cup competition, to be held in France this September, and to the inclusion of the event in the next European championships, in Athens next year. It has also been included in the first IAAF world championships in Helsinki in 1983. Mrs Smith believes women have proved beyond doubt that women are capable of running marathons.

Considering that she joined Hampshire Harriers, which eventually became Barnes Ladies, in 1954 and has been running ever since, her honours list might seem a little bare. But then Mrs Smith was 16 when she began her time in 1950, and she was the national cross-country champion. In 1972 she won the world cross-country title. In her first Olympics, in Munich in 1972, she was beaten in the semi-final of the 1,500 metres, breaking two personal best times and two British records on the way. She regards that as a better achievement than the bronze medal she won in the first 3,000 metres at the European championships in Rome in 1974. She believes that she never realized her full potential in the 3,000 metres because of an injury and after having her second child.

But the marathon beckoned and, with it, a fuller flowering of her talent. She won her first, the Avon marathon at Sandbach in 1979. That same year she won at Walden, in West Germany, and in Tokyo. Last year, she took the Sandbach race again and also Tokyo.

Paul Harrison

Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Weather
100	Good	Varied Fair Fine
150	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
190	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
210	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
230	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
250	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
270	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
290	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
310	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
330	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
350	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
370	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
390	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
410	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
430	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
450	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
470	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
490	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
510	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
530	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
550	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
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610	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
630	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
650	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
670	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
690	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
710	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
730	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
750	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
770	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
790	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
810	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
830	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
850	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
870	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
890	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
910	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
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950	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
970	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
990	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
1010	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
1030	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
1050	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
1070	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
1090	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
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1990	Fair	Heavy Poor Fine
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Residential Property

Extra rooms can give you extra income

With hotel prices rising the demand for self-catering holiday accommodation becomes greater, as many house owners are discovering. Where the house is in a picturesque area, any surplus accommodation can become the source of useful extra income with a minimum of maintenance effort. Such a property is Passford Farm Cottage, Boldre, near Lymington, Hampshire, between the Solent and the New Forest.

The cottage is believed to be fifteenth century, and is a picturesque property with exposed timbering and accommodation, including two main reception rooms, a study and three bedrooms.

It stands in about five acres,

and includes an unusually large range of outbuildings; a former coaching stable has already been converted into a separate bungalow with a combined sitting and dining room and two bedrooms.

Above it is a large loft which could be made into a separate flat subject to planning permission. There is also a large two-storey brick and slate barn which could probably be converted into further accommodation. The property is for sale at about £135,000 and the agents are Fox and Sons of Lymington.

Extra self-contained accommodation is also provided by Laurel House, Somerleyton, near Lowestoft on the Norfolk and Suffolk border. Believed to date from about 1820 it was once occupied by the managing agent of the Somerleyton Estate and is well situated in a conservation area close to the coast and the Norfolk Broads.

It is a roomy property and has a drawing room 23ft long, two reception rooms and five bedrooms. In the garden is a former coach house recently converted into separate accommodation consisting of a living room with a kitchen extension, two bedrooms and bathroom. The price is £75,000 and the agents are

Strutt and Parker of Norwich. An elegant compact house is The Old Vicarage, Duxford, near Cambridge, which stands beside the village green. No definite date can be ascribed to the house which is early Georgian in character, although it is known that there was a vicarage on the site in the seventeenth century. Probably it is a mixture of periods.

Constructed of white-painted brick under a slate roof, it is approached through fine wrought iron gates. There are three reception rooms, five bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a good cellar. The garden, with a paddock, totals about 2½ acres. Offers over £130,000 are being asked through Lane Fox and Partners of London, and Swordeston of Safron Walden.

Different in character is Midsummer House, Littlebury, Essex, which has a frontage to the River Cam. Thought to date back to about 1660, it has a grade two listing, as being of special architectural or historic interest and is built on a heavy timber frame with cream-coloured rendering.

A feature is a drawing room with some good timbering and an inglenook fireplace. There is an unusual combined hall and



Hope Court, at Hope Bagot, Shropshire: Georgian elegance at £160,000

sitting room with a gallery landing. As well, there is a dining room, study or playroom, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is half an acre of garden with the river as a boundary. Seavills of Chelmsford are asking about £115,000. Another property with a river

frontage is Willow House, Bray, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, which leads down to the River Thames. The property was probably built after the First World War and has two large reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room, five bedrooms and two bathrooms.

An attractive feature is the garden of about one third of an acre and includes a timber summerhouse and a large swimming pool. It has a frontage of about 100ft to the river, with a full-length landing stage and steps. The property is open to offers in the region of £175,000 and the agents are Giddy and Giddy of Maidenhead.

Water is also a feature of Hope Court, Hope Bagot, near Ludlow, Shropshire, which has a number of small lakes and pools in its gardens. Once a bird sanctuary it is still visited by large numbers of Canada geese. The house is Georgian and has a grade two listing.

Accommodation includes four reception rooms, a breakfast room, seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. Extensive outbuildings include a garage block for five cars, and attached to the block is a cottage with two reception rooms and three bedrooms.

The property extends to some 19 acres in which there is an area of woodland divided by a stream with small waterfalls. The price is £160,000 and the agents are the Hereford office of Knight Frank and Rutley.

A house with a lot of character is Bignell's Cottage,

Iichen Abbas, near Winchester, Hampshire, one of the old properties in the Iichen Valley and thought to date from about 1700.

It has a reception hall, three reception rooms, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The land, including a paddock extends to just over an acre; there are fine views across the valley from the property. Offer in the region of £55,000 a being asked through the Winchester office of John D. Wood.

Possibly of fifteenth century origins, Glebe Cottage, Rotherbourne, near Fordingbridge, the border of Hampshire a Wiltshire, was at one time owned by the Church Commissioners as a garden cottage for the vicar of the local church. It is of cruck construction and has two interconnecting sitting rooms and three bedrooms.

The present owner acquired just over 20 years ago in excellent condition and virtually rebuilt it. The property, including a paddock, runs to some 6 acres and can be bought for about £73,500 through the Milton office of Jackson a Jackson.

Gerald E



Residential property



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THE TIMES

THE ARTS

Majestic contributions to Dickensian scholarship

Picking the outstanding book of the year is a contentious and ill business, though fun. But in the long view of history it is hard to see anything more important this year than two books that are published tomorrow: Volume V of the *Pilgrim Edition of The Letters of Charles Dickens* and the Clarendon edition of *David Copperfield*.

Both are majestic works of scholarship, establishing definitive texts that will not need revision until the Last Trump sounds the opening of the heavenly library. Both throw new light on one of our greatest writers. By a happy coincidence the letters from the year 1847 to 1849, cover the start of serial publication of *Copperfield*, revealing significant echoes and cross-references. Both are exquisitely printed, annotated, illustrated, appended, bound, and otherwise published by Oxford.

And Professor Kathleen Tillotson is a general editor of both stateside enterprises that will last until the crack of doom, though with lack publication will be finished before then. Our foremost Dickensian scholar has a fastidious distaste for personal publicity, emphasizing that what matters are the words, and the scholarship, and the teamwork of her distinguished colleagues and predecessors. But her 75th birthday on April 3 seemed a convenient excuse to bully her in giving her first interview to the press.

An example of the scholarship. In Volume IV of the *Letters* Dickens, who was doing a lot of foreign travel during the period, wrote that he had been looking for fireflies around Rome because he had read about them in his Dryden translation of Juvenal, or perhaps it was Horace, that he was lugging round with him in his bag. Several weeks work produced the terse footnote: "Horace nowhere mentions fireflies." Kathleen Tillotson says: "Much scholarship is the hunt to prove a negative, or to produce the melancholy gloss 'unidentified'." When she laughs, beneath hair as white as lamb's wool you see the face of the pretty scholarship girl from the north of England, with a stunning view of Parliament Hill, is well-paired floor to ceiling with classical texts and reference books as well as English literature. Dickens fills the box room so that there is only just space for a small person to slip in sideways.

There are at least another seven volumes of the letters to come, followed by a massive index, and at least half a volume of addenda. When



Left: preliminary sketch by Hablot Knight Browne ("Phiz"), rarely seen before, for "I make my self Known to my Aunt"; right: the final version



Humphrey and Madeline House started, they knew of 12,000 letters. We now know of 13,452, and Professor Tillotson was just off to Sotheby's where eight previously unknown letters were coming up for sale.

Dickens was so prolific partly because he became famous so young. There were all the business letters, the fan mail, the charitable and politicking letters, and in the new volume the letters to *The Times* about the evils of public

mail and uproar. Unlike Henry James or Virginia Woolf he was not interested in discussing the creative process in his letters. But just occasionally he lets us into his mystery. In the new volume he discusses the style of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, his last Christmas book: "As the inventor of this sort of story, I may be allowed to plead that I think a little dreaminess and vagueness essential to its effect..."

Then there are the echoes. In a letter John Leech, the

artist, taken ill on the Isle of Wight, is "like a ship in distress, in a sea of bedclothes." Cf. *David Copperfield*, having a sleepless night worrying about Dora, and his poor aunt, and life: "I was always tossing about like a distressed ship in a sea of bedclothes." It was published eight months after the letter.

The creative process is better illuminated in the Clarendon edition, with its recension of the manuscript, variants, number plans, and comprehen-

sive apparatus criticus. The bits we have never seen before are so exciting. In the new *Copperfield* there is a lovely scene eventually cut by Dickens in which Steerforth is flirting with Mrs Gummidge, the lone lorn creature. "Just the type of a certain young man who can get round old ladies," said the general editor, not too severely.

Five of the 15 novels are out in the Clarendon edition. *Christmas Carol* is in the Press. Several others are quite well on, in-

cluding a volume of miscellaneous papers. The admirable new Oxford paperback series of *The World's Classics* has just agreed to use the Clarendon texts with reduced apparatus and new introductions: *Oliver Twist* and *Domby* come next year. The great engine of scholarship rolls on, driven by its brilliant but self-effacing crew. We are lucky to live in a generation that can read such publications.

Philip Howard

Opera around Europe

La Périchole
Sadler's Wells

William Mann

The Singers Company have arrived in London again, bringing a week of Offenbach operetta (never too late for the composer's centenary) to Sadler's Wells Theatre in Rosebery Avenue. Their new production, of *Orpheus in the Underworld*, will be given later this week. They began on Monday with Peter Knapp's English version, and his production, of *La Périchole*, first put on two years ago at Riverside Studios, much toured since then, and shown on BBC television.

Périchole has always teetered on the verge of the Offenbach repertory outside France. It is the story of the Spanish viceroys in Peru who took a street-singer as his mistress, and, being obliged by private vow never to seduce unmarried women, had her wed to the first man drunk enough to agree. She also had been rendered inebriate before accepting the Viceroy's proposal, and at the wedding neither party could see the other. Next day, *Périchole* discovered that her husband was the sweetheart she had been too poor to wed.

After that, the plot by Meilhac and Halévy loses impetus, with one-and-a-half acts still to go. Offenbach's musical inspiration was still game: if the plumes seem as if they have been delivered when Act Two begins, the most succulent of them, "Tu n'es pas beau, tu n'es pas riche", is saved until the prison scene in the last act. And there are numerous other delights less strong, but still treasured by Offenbach devotees.

For touring purposes, Knapp had the music re-scored by his conductor John Owen Edwards, for his company's small band, not much smaller than Offenbach's, but tending to modern show-biz sonority (the electric piano, quasi-harmonium, sounds cheap and nasty in this music). He sets the entire piece in a Paris café, frequented by Offenbach who cries out his new *opéra* there and then with the help of the customers. An impromptu atmosphere thus excuses the absence of scenery for the Viceroy's palace, the jail, and so on; it does not fully excuse the hectic romping and prancing into which the production has declined since it was new.

A show that went well in its side, or on television, finds itself uncomfortably exposed in the larger stage area of Sadler's Wells, and its pristine tautness begins to sag, like the libretto of *Périchole*. The band plays with spirit, and the production still has the prime blessing of Eirian James in the role of a trim, sparkling young mezzo-soprano, and a range as a comic actress. Mike Bulman is a little tall, but a romantic Figaro. The Viceroy is now taken, with nervous avuncular relish, by Richard Suart, a drolly Dickensian impersonation.



The Act III quartet in *Rigoletto*, by the banks of the Mincio

Rigoletto
Grand Theatre, Geneva

John Higgins

Anyone who uproots *Rigoletto* from the sixteenth century, in which Verdi and his librettist, Piave, eventually decided to set their opera, does so at his peril. The curse of Montecarlo is likely to extend from *Rigoletto* through to the whole work, which is none too susceptible to change. In Geneva, however, Jean-Marie Simon has taken the risk and he comes within a whisker of total success.

The curtain rises on a stage set without rather than within the ducal palace. The terrace outside the ballroom looks out across the flatlands of Mantua to the river Mincio, which is to play an important role in the last act, winding its way down to the Po. Then Simon tricks his audience. The revellers are in the costume of the conventional *Rigoletto*, but through their number come other courtiers wearing the black frock-coats of early Victorian society. We are at a fancy-dress ball and the action which follows takes place in the period of Verdi's youth.

Simon argues in a brief programme note that Verdi was constantly forced by the censor to alter the time and place of his operas. Consequently his voice on occasion had to be muted. The lordlings who ruled in and round Mantua in 1830, or thereabouts, were much like the contemporaries of Machiavelli and had no compunction at all in dispatching those who did not fit in with the manners and morals of the court. Whether the curse of a non-conformist such as Montecarlo would have carried quite so much weight in the nine-



Valerie Masterson and Piero Cappuccilli

teenth century as in the sixteenth is rather more debatable. The main advantage in updating, which Simon leaves the audience to discover without adding his own comments, is that *Rigoletto* is turned from a costume piece into a domestic drama closer to the style of *Luisa Miller* and *La Traviata*, works which precede and succeed it by two years apiece. *Rigoletto* (Piero Cappuccilli) is a hunchback not through any monstrous deformity but because the curse of the world have lain across his shoulders too heavily and too long. His tattered coat, his bushy white hair, his shuffling gait and his habit of appearing shyly round the corners of darkened streets proclaim that he is long past joining in the debauchery of the Mantuan court. His solace is Gilda and his home is in one of the back streets with its upper courtyard above a high wall and the single old

tree and bench which Piave demanded. Jean-Marie Simon in common with several of our best opera producers began life as a designer. He worked with Zeffirelli and Visconti as well as with the two Peters, Brink and Hall. Their joint influences show in the punctiliousness with which the stage pictures are built up and in their ultimate beauty. The dawn of the opening act is lit in a way recalling Joseph Losey's film of *Don Giovanni*, which after all was filmed none too far away from Mantua—any moment Ottavio could have appeared being poled across the Mincio marshes.

But Simon's triumph undoubtedly is the final act where the same Mincio flows right across the centre of the stage, and a very different river it is from the one viewed from the Duke of Mantua's terrace. The banks are strewn with refuse and if all had gone according to Rigo-

letto's plan another sack would have been added to it. Sparsa fucile has a caravan, where Maddalena can entertain her clients, parked in the mud; those in a hurry can wade to it while the more fastidious can use a catwalk from the far bank. The two sides of Mantua are immediately made clear: the squalor of the underworld and the big spenders at the Duke's court, although even here the peeling columns suggest more money went on women and wine than on keeping the palazzo in decent repair.

The only criticism to be levelled at Simon's staging is an apparent disregard for time and season. The same misty orb is in the sky whether it be the sun or the moon. *Rigoletto*'s tree is wintry and leafless, although Gilda herself wears only a flimsy dress. The height of the wall, too, prevents father and daughter embracing, as Verdi required, at the end of "Figlia, addio".

Nello Santi's conducting had little to recommend it. The start was raucous and the improvement thereafter only modest. Geneva, which nowadays is looking such a strong house in other respects, needs improvement in the pit. There are further performances tomorrow, on Saturday, and on Tuesday.

The Grateful Dead Rainbow

Richard Williams

The Grateful Dead are unusual not merely because they have been together for 15 years with only one significant change in personnel but because, unlike the even longer-lived Rolling Stones or The Who, they have chosen not to broaden their scope or change with the times. Their music is exactly as it was in the early summer of 1970, when they made their British debut, and they continue to reflect with scrupulous exactness the era of their prime, now long past but evidently (to judge by the nature of Monday night's audience) still cherished in many hearts.

Smoker's pace, they eased into their four-hour concert with a selection of songs recalling the early days of country rock, sung with their customary amateurish charm by the guitarists, Jerry Garcia and Bob Weir, given necessary support on the choruses by the group's newest member, Brent Mydland, who also played keyboards. Garcia's pretty "Sugarbee" and Weir's surprising version of "El Paso" were the best of these, rivalled by a trenchant blues incorporating Mydland's screaming Hammond organ.

Work is the Curse of the Drinking Classes

King's Head

Ned Chaillet

Actors spend most of their time being other people, and one must forgive them for that. Some of the people they choose to be are quite charming or interesting, which is just as well. But when it comes to one-man shows, actors tend to become people we have all heard of, and so the lunchtime programmes of the King's Head Theatre's rouse Evelyn Waugh from the dead, without access to his own written words, or they give us a famous name with a pungent selection of his best written and spoken words, like this week's Oscar Wilde. Wilde is much more enjoyable than most such excursions, although someone has designed a berserk lighting plot which often hides the character in shadows or a blinding glare.

Melos Quartet Wigmores Hall

Joan Chissell

Obviously such masterpieces as the three last quartets in A minor, D minor and G and the string quintet of 1828 must form the cornerstones of the Melos Quartet's four Schubert recitals at Wigmores Hall. But as record collectors know, few artists in recent years have done more than this Stuttgart-based team for the 11 or so neglected quartets that Schubert wrote. His teens primarily for family pleasure. The chance of renewing acquaintance with half-a-dozen of them is not the least rewarding part of this welcome little festival.

No 4 in C Major came first in the third concert on Monday a choice which the opening movement alone would have justified with its remarkable chromatic introduction, its startling contrasts of dynamics and key, and its sudden silence, opening up a strange new world of romance.

It was fully an hour before they ventured into the first of their famously divertive collective improvisations, this one in a medium 7/4 tempo capably anchored by their two drummers, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann. Here Garcia was unleashed, to display his renowned pearly tone, stiff phrasing and utter lack of melodic imagination, well prompted by Weir's thoughtful chording, as outstanding throughout the concert as it was 11 years ago.

In addition to several of the more venerable items from their repertoire, the second half included "If I Had My Way", the gospel song once popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary, here given a slashing Bo Diddley rhythm with chattering drums (which showed off the relaxed, complementary nature of the relationship between Hart and Kreutzmann) and an untypically flashy but highly effective ending.

The audience's pronounced good nature was tested, however, by many lengthy silences, during which the guitarists adjusted their tuning with the aid of stroboscopic devices. Eventually this prompted the reflection that, if God had meant rock musicians to stay in tune, He would have taught them more than three chords.

From what I could see, there were some touches of Mr Tiley's costume that needed to be hidden.

He offers the Wilde of Paris, impoverished and disgraced by two years in an English jail, and yet he still strains to be fastidious, in his dress and in his wit. Mr Tiley's costume fails to help the characterization, for although he has painted his face a ghastly white, Wilde is dead, and wears white gloves and a white tie, his shoes and socks are a disgrace to impersonation. His vocal characterization is a more certain thing, honed to deliver the shade of Wilde's wit.

Mr Tiley has selected and connected his quotations with a good sense of the story that Wilde might tell, passing from fashionable fame to scorned ignominy with his eyes wide open. The show makes a special plea for understanding, which should no longer be necessary anyway, but it does offer a mordant self-knowledge. It is a good portrait, funny and melancholic, of the face behind Dorian Gray.

From this they jumped to No 8 in B flat, of the following year, its 17-year-old composer having moved on from an orchestral style of scoring to truer quartet texture (even if still occasionally doffing his cap to Haydn, Mozart and early Beethoven) as well as achieving far greater subtlety in the first two movements, transitions.

As ever, the Melos were acutely responsive to every imaginative stroke. But both performances struck me as still more stylish than on their much praised recording, because they were a little more fleet and ringing, the point-making less self-conscious.

For "Death And The Maiden" after the interval they understandably broadened and intensified their style for dramatic effect. Not a note was left unnamed in pursuit of expression. Bigger climaxes were reinforced with uncommonly full-bodied tone and a strident bite in sforzandi. Sometimes their romanticism even sounded a little over-ripe. But it was certainly of the first order, culminating in a breathless, brilliant dance of death.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Stuttgart novelties in London

The Stuttgart Ballet returns to London in June with a repertoire of eight works not previously performed by the company in Britain. It will open its two-week season at the London Coliseum on June 1 with John Neumeier's full-length *Lady of the Camellias*, to music by Chopin. In the second week it will present John Cranko's *Swan Lake*.

There will be two triple bills, with the first offering Jiri Kylian's *Sinfonia*, to music by Britten. Rosemary Hellwell's *Heidegger*, to music by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, and Whispie Moon, choreographed by William Forsythe and Axel Manthey. In the second triple bill there will be Kylian's *Return to the Strange Land*, to music by Janacek. Heinz Spoerli's *Tramte*, to music by Wagner, and *Crane*, to music by Bernd Alois Zimmermann.

Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell will appear with the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet on April 1 in a special performance to mark the Fiftieth

anniversaries of the Royal Ballet and of the Sadler's Wells theatre. They will dance Ashton's *Soupirs*, pas de deux, On April 7 and 8 the company will present six ballets new to London audiences, including the premiere of David Bintley's *Night Moves*, set to Britten's *Variations* on a theme of Francis Bridge with Marion Tait and David Ashmore leading the cast. Another premiere will be Derek Deane's *To the Power of Two*, which will be danced by Lesley Collier, Jennifer Penney, Stephen Jerrett and Stacey Beagley to music from Tippett's *Concerto for Double String Orchestra*. The designs and lighting are by Anthony Dowell.

Wingate's
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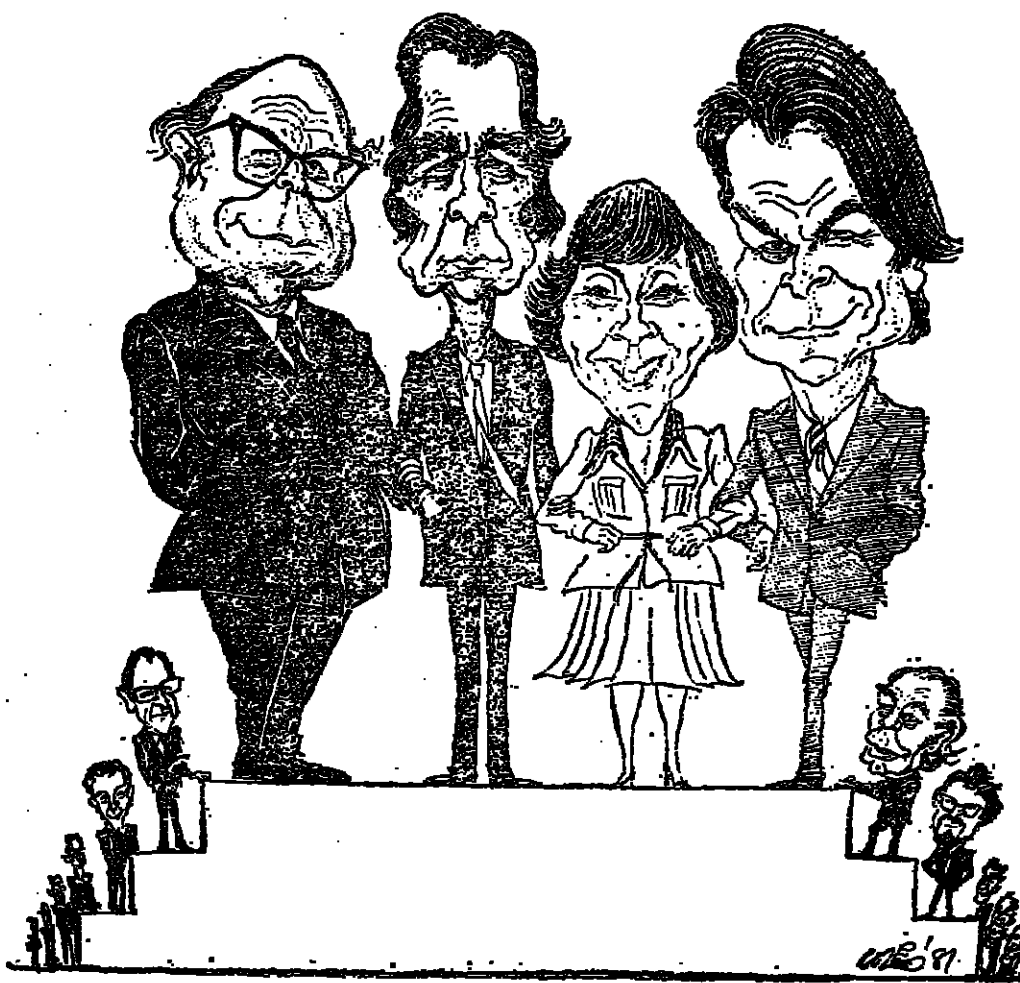
How the Social Democrats joined forces for their biggest gamble

The Times Political Staff examines the people behind tomorrow's launch of a new party

Leading Social Democrats from Parliament

House of Commons	Constituency	Majority at last election	House of Lords	Recent position*
Tom Bradley (L)	Leicester, East	2,856	Lord Ashby (C-B)	Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast
John Cartwright (L)	Greenwich Woolwich, East	10,460	Lord Aylestone of Aylestone (L)	Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs 1966-67
Richard Crawshaw (L)	Liverpool, Toxteth	6,143	Lord Bullock of Leafield, Oxon (C-B)	Academic
Tom Ellis (L)	Wrexham	12,149	Lady Burton of Coventry (L)	Labour MP 1950-59
Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (C)	Norfolk, North West	7,928	Lord Diamond of the City of Gloucester (L)	Labour Cabinet 1968-79
John Hiram (L)	Gateshead, West	8,312	Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (L)	Minister for the Arts 1976-79
Edward Lyons (L)	Bradford, West	7,755	Lord Flowers (C-B)	Rector of Imperial College
Robert MacLennan (L)	Caithness and Sutherland	2,539	Viscount Hanworth (C-B)	Baron
David Owen (L)	Plymouth, Devonport	1,001	Lord Harris of Greenwich (L)	Minister of State, Home Office 1974-79
William Rogers (L)	Teesside, Stockton	11,127	Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (C-B)	Chairman, Parole Board, 1967-74
John Roper (L)	Farnworth	8,107	Lord Kennet of the Dene (L)	Member of European Parliament 1978-79
Neville Sanderson (L)	Hillingdon Hayes & Harlington	3,302	Lord Kilmarnock (C-B)	Chief of the Clan Boyd
Mike Thomas (L)	Newcastle-upon-Tyne, East	6,170	Lord Perry of Walton (C-B)	Vice-Chancellor, Open University
Tina Wigglesworth (L)	Teesside, Thornaby	5,524	Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane (L)	Joint President, J. Sainsbury Ltd
Former MPs			Lord Taylor of Gryfe (L)	Chairman, Scottish Railways Board Member of European Parliament
Roy Jenkins	MP for Setchford, Birmingham 1950-76		Lord Walton of Newton (L)	1975-77
Shirley Williams	MP for Hertford & Stevenage 1974-79		Lord Wilson of Langside (L)	Lord Advocate 1967-70
			Lord Winterbottom (L)	(Ian Winterbottom) Lords Whip 1974-78
			Lord Young of Darlington (L)	(Michael Young) President of Consumers' Association

L: Labour. C: Conservative. C-B: Cross benches. * Not a complete list of appointments.



He was one of those, for example, who led and maintained the campaign for the publication of the so-called Underhill Report into Trotskyist entryism into the party.

His quiet courage even led him to disagree with Roy Jenkins over In Place of Strife. Mr Jenkins's resignation as deputy leader of the Labour Party was probably one of Mr Bradley's biggest disappointments. He actively urged him to stay on and continue the battle over Europe and other issues.

A former chairman of the Labour Party, Mr Bradley has roots which push deep into the movement. A Bevin boy, he worked underground in the mines and as a politician rose through local councils and his unions, unsuccessfully standing as a Labour candidate in a number of parliamentary seats before reaching Westminster in 1962.

Mr Richard Crawshaw (Liverpool, Toxteth), a barrister, who still likes to be known by his military rank, lieutenant-colonel (he served with distinction in the Royal Artillery and the Parachute Regiment), was a theological student before the war. He was much respected as a member of the Commons chairman's panel, noted for his fairness and commonsense whenever there was a dispute in committee. And he was Deputy Speaker between 1979-81.

He is a keep-fit enthusiast and has earned a lot of money for charities on his long-distance sponsored walks.

Mr Tom Ellis (Wrexham), son of a miner, is a quintessential Labour romantic who sharpened his attitudes on the sparse, unromantic poetry of his Welsh hero, R. S. Thomas. Armed with an honours degree in chemistry, he worked for ICI for two years until the nationalisation of the coal mines and decided to return whence he came, taking a massive reduction in salary and working down the pit. With his education and ideological commitment to the mines, the National Coal Board was away from the coalface back to college and eventually to a colliery in his constituency where he was manager for 14 years before being elected as MP for Wrexham.

But Westminster quickly undermined the romantic attitude to politics, disenchanted setting in when he was on the Labour team that fought Sir Geoffrey Howe's Industrial Relations Bill in committee. He found he could not share the view of his Labour colleagues.

Mr Robert MacLennan, barrister (Caithness and Sutherland) is strongly pro-European and has been a Labour frontbencher spokesman on Scottish affairs and defence. He was Parlia-

mentary Under-Secretary, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection in 1974-79.

After launching the party in Edinburgh and Aberdeen tomorrow, Mr MacLennan will attend the Scottish Liberal Party conference in Glasgow on Friday and Saturday. He was sent to Silcock's boarding school when his parents inherited money from his grandfather.

From there he won an exhibition to Cambridge, gaining a degree in economics, and later became a journalist on *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*.

Mr Hiram campaigned from the Labour backbenches for development agencies in the regions, as well as in Scotland and Wales, and in 1976 was appointed a junior minister for transport when Mr William Rogers was head of the department.

Mr Wigglesworth (Thornaby, Teesside) came up through the Labour political nursery fighting the left-wing inside the National Union of Students in the 1960s he was a vice-president of the NUS.

The son of a foreman fitter on Teesside, he has known his constituency from childhood. He first went into a bank but left

one of the moderate MPs who started to organize a counter to the Tribune group of Labour MPs. It was out of these meetings that the Manifesto group was born.

Mr Hiram's childhood was spent above the Preston newspaper's shop run by his mother. His father was a fitter—but was sent to Silcock's boarding school when his parents inherited money from his grandfather.

From there he won an exhibition to Cambridge, gaining a degree in economics, and later became a journalist on *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*.

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The son of a foreman fitter on Teesside, he has known his constituency from childhood. He first went into a bank but left

to attend a teacher's training college in London, then, in another switch, he studied to become a probation officer.

His political career began as personal assistant to the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers. Later he was research and information officer to the National Co-operative Party.

When he was elected to Parliament he joined the Manifesto group and also became PPS to Roy Jenkins.

Another North-east stalwart of the Co-op movement is Mike Thomas (Newcastle East), at 36 the youngest of the group. The son of a Liverpool heating and ventilating engineer he went to Liverpool University and represents the "posh" smug being applied to the Social Democrats. He was elected in 1974, was parliamentary private secretary to Roy Hattersley,

He had no time for the theorising of the Labour left, and was ever alert to publishing the counter-attack of the Labour moderates. He also launched the "House Magazine", the weekly journal of parliament. Prior to resigning from Labour he circulated all his constituents at his expense, soliciting their advice on what his decision should be.

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Hold the front page: nothing has happened

It is well known that no news is good news; what is less widely understood is that good news is bad news. And this particular bit of truly significant news has not yet, apparently, penetrated to China, where the authorities have decreed, according to a report by the *Daily Mirror*, that the news is to be reported and that stories of such negative matters as crime and corruption are no longer to be published. Stories of upright citizens labouring tirelessly are the thing; a lady who worked in a factory labouring at the production of toothpaste for the state and, when she died, bequeathed all of which she died possessed to the said state, has been posthumously and publicly canonized, as have two men who were drowned while trying to rescue a girl who had fallen into a river. (I am not sure that the newspaper which reported the latter story had fuller got the hang of the new rules, surely it could have better filled the space with accounts of girls who had not fallen into the river in the first place.)

It won't work, I'm afraid. The heirs of Mao are only the latest in the long line of those who have dreamed the same dream: that if you do not draw attention to the darkness, it will turn to light of its own accord. The hunger is constantly making itself felt in this country, too; it's a poor month that doesn't see a letter in the newspaper or another complaining that the press only prints bad news. Yet a newspaper which accepted the premise of this Pathetic Fallacy and published nothing but that which can be seen through rose-coloured spectacles would speedily find its readers deserting in their numbers to rivals unafraid of pointing out that life is not altogether a bowl of cherries, and the only reason that such a fate will not overtake the Chinese papers under the new dispensation is that the readers have no rival sheets to desert to.

Words are not things, nor things words. If (and the Chinese rulers are just the lads to try it) the entrance to a sewage-farm were to be decorated with a sign 40 feet high bearing the message "4711 Made Here" can you assure those whom it might concern that the surrounding air would still not be fragrant with the scent of eau de Cologne, or even roast chicken. Portraying the Chinese people as free of all blots, and the life they lead as no less untroubled by mischance, will not make them so: if it has any effect at all, it will serve only to alienate the people from their leaders, for whatever else the Chinese may be, they are plainly not daft, and they will speedily take the measure of the difference between what their rulers tell them and what they can see with their own epicurean-laden eyes.

The problem can be summed up in a dozen words: we do not wish to be told that which we already know. We know that most husbands do not murder their wives, that few bank managers abscond with the funds, that although some aeroplane crash, far more arrive safely, that not every dog will bite. And we know these things for a reason far deeper and more important than that proffered by the statisticians which bear out our convictions. We are instinctively possessed of the truth that the universe runs on the principle that the bad is the exception to the good; they are not equal, and the Manifesto group, which has been in the world for many years, is inured in road accidents, many robbed or assaulted by villains, many struck by an infinite variety of the slings and arrows of outrageous failure. Yet we do not go about the streets

thinking that our next moment is going to be our last one, even our last trouble-free one because although we may believe that there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-tome how we may, we do believe, rightly, that normalcy is normal.

And it follows from this that what attracts our attention; awakens our interest is the ception, which means, broad speaking, the bad news, headline reading "Neg 55,000,000 people not struck lightning in Britain last year" will not sell newspapers, I will it deserve to. And I do not believe that things are a different in China, where news item in the *People's Daily* recording the fact that practically all the wheat sown in previous spring had grown up weeds rather than downward is unlikely to have the same spilling their breakfast coffee into their laps in their excitement.

I do not believe it is true that people like to read about the misfortunes of others on the front page. I think it is much more likely that we seek and find reassurance that not only has it not happened to us but that it has all along been most unlikely to.

Many years ago I read, or perhaps dreamed, an account of a couple who, convinced that death was only a conditioned reflex, determined to bring up their son in complete ignorance of its very existence, so that if their theory was right he would be immortal, as by the time of his death he would be unaffected by it. His children's books were scrutinized for references to the forbidden topic: plausible explanations were devised for the time the newspaper would spread his readers and his grandmothers: certainly, he was allowed no newspapers. And the rulers in China seem to be attempting something as absurd as the experiment of these lunatics: not much less macabre, and equally certain to fail.

The suicide rate in the Soviet Union is among the highest in the world, though all the organs of the state combine to pretend that it simply does not exist. The lesson appeared not to have been learnt by China's rulers, so they will now have to learn it the hard way; crime in that country will not diminish merely because the newspapers are forbidden to mention it nor will the incidence of corruption among Chinese officials or politicians be less because there is a general pretence that there isn't any.

Naturam expellat furca, tamen usque recurret. In Paradise, no doubt, nothing unpleasant ever happens. Here below, other standards obtain. When mosques or synagogues are built, a patch or a corner of the building is always left unfinished, perfection belongs only to Allah or Jehovah, and it is not for man to pretend to it. In China, however, though they do not believe they are already perfect, they believe that by telling each other that they are they will presently come to be. I never thought I would live to tell the Chinese, of all peoples, that this book of theirs was a masterpiece of self-deception.

Here we sit in a branchy row. Thinking of beautiful things we know;

Dreaming of deeds that we mean to do,

All complete, in a minute or two—

Something noble and grand and good,

Won by merely wishing we could.

Now we're going to—never mind.

Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!

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LONDON DIARY

Where is that old spirit of fellowship?

The second scholarship to be given by the Airey Neave Memorial Trust, which perpetuates the memory of the former Northern Ireland Secretary killed by a terrorist bomb at Westminster, has been announced. It is for an international study into the freedom available in different countries for scientists to pursue their chosen subjects of research and teaching. The award of £30,000 has been made to three diligent workers for the cause of human rights: Paul Sieghart, chairman of Justice and the governor of the British Institute of Human Rights; Dr John Humphrey, FRCS, Professor of Immunology at London University; and Dr John Ziman, FRS, Professor of Physics at Bristol University. They will appoint a research team to examine the extent to which scientists in the 35 signatory nations to the Helsinki accord of 1975 are free to proceed unhindered with their work. It is an issue on which Professor Ziman has tried, he

feels unsuccessfully, to stir his colleagues at the Royal Society to protest at the treatment of fellow scientists in the Soviet Union and its satellites.

His appeal for a public vote of disapproval when eminent Communist block scientists are known to have been dismissed from their posts, disapproved from working or travelling, and so forth, appears to have attracted little support.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that the Royal Society has refused a request from Professor Ziman for help in providing accommodation for the researchers who will undertake the study. The Society is unwilling to become too involved with a project of such a patently political nature.

Yet it is worth recalling similar circumstances more than 40 years ago when prominent scientists in Britain gave their support to the Academic Assistance Council, which brought many eminent men to this country to escape Nazi tyranny in Europe.

That body is now the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. And 45 of those scientists rescued by its predecessor are today Fellows of the Royal Society.

Centre aisle

Politician-watchers who are unable, or unwilling, to get up early enough to see the Gang of However Many. It is now, launch their new party at the Connaught Rooms at 8.45 a.m. tomorrow are assured of another sighting of the stars of the social democratic firmament at Vadham College, Oxford, on Saturday afternoon.

Shirley, Bill, David and Roy will be gathered there to celebrate the wedding of Alec McGivern, secretary of the Council for Social Democracy.

"We fixed the date last November," McGivern told me yesterday, "thinking we would get it out of the way before the new party was launched; but events seem to have happened rather more quickly than we anticipated."

The rendezvous amid the dreaming spires is likely to be the first time that the members of the Gang will see each other after their high-speed dispersal round the country to attend provincial press conferences after tomorrow morning's launch.

McGivern, who was previously secretary of the Campaign for Labour Victory, and his bride, Miss Shirley Mayne, a social worker with the National Children's Home, have lost no time

in showing their political loyalties. "We have already filled in our joint membership application for the Social Democratic Party in our married name," he told me.

Another export success for Britain. A Lincolnshire turkey company yesterday dispatched a consignment of 140,000 parsons' noses, weighing 14 tons, to the Republic of Togo in West Africa, where they are considered a delicacy. "It takes a long time to collect a few tons; each turkey has only one," the firm's export manager explained.

Downbeat

Those MPs who use the underground passageway connecting the House with Westminster station and their Embankment offices have had the pleasure of being serenaded in recent days by a high class troupe of buskers, a trio of students playing chamber music.

When the Diary walked past, the flute, cello and viola were playing a Mozart sonatina. Between movements the minstrels explained that they would rather remain anonymous; their place of study might not be pleased if they were given

any publicity. "It supplements our grants they run out so quickly," explained the flute as quins rained from passers-by.

They did reveal that they had received much appreciation and encouragement from passing MPs, including several shadow ministers, which suggests to me that some of those MPs ought to be agitating for a change in the law to have buskers, who occupy all the best Underground passage sites, properly authorized.

London Transport tell me that busking in their stations is not quite a hanging offence, but it is a contravention of their bye-law no 22, part 1: "No person while upon the railway shall, to the annoyance of any other person, sing, perform on any musical or other instrument, or use any gramophone, record player, or portable wireless apparatus."

And if they can't catch them with that, there is always bye-law 22, part 3: "No person while upon the railway shall, to the annoyance of any other person, sing, perform on any musical or other instrument, or use any gramophone, record player, or portable wireless apparatus."

This seems churlish, but LT insist that many passengers are annoyed or embarrassed by the strolling players, and besides they can cause congestion at busy times. Well, they have never annoyed or embarrassed me; I would either give each Tube station an Arts

Council grant or make London Transport employ a band at every one.

Lagos lullaby

For a poet, President Shugu Shagari of Nigeria, just ending a visit to Britain, writes a dull book. But, as the President himself might observe in one of the well-tried maxims he is fond of employing, every cloud has a silver lining.

I therefore take pleasure in drawing my *Vision of Nigeria* to the attention of insomniac readers. For a mere £15 this volume, published to coincide with his visit, will provide hours of dreamless slumber.

The product has already undergone extensive somnolence testing in Nigeria (whose substantial print order will largely cover the production costs), being as it is an exhaustive collection of the President's speeches at sod-unings, plant openings and official dinners during the past 18 months.

It is a troubled mind indeed which will not feel the touch of light-fingered Hypnos lowering the eyelids at such phrases as: "At this point I want to say a few words on revenue allocation."

President Shagari, who wears flowing robes and tinted glasses, cannot take a step

without at least two dozen rainiers trailing in his wake. But his courage is beyond question; every politician would wish to see his speech at the opening of the new head office of the Agricultural and Cooperative Bank at Kaduna immortalized between hard covers.

Many of the speeches build down to a series of homilies on civic responsibility of the sort that schoolmasters often inflict on their charges at prize-givings. Indeed Shagari, who is a much more intelligent and serious man than this book would suggest, was a teacher before his rise to eminence.

The poetic element of a typical presidential speech tends along the lines of waters flowing under the bridge, national cakes that must be baked before they can be shared, and such like. But, as Shagari is like to say, maybe it reads better in Hausa. As indeed would some of the efforts of our own Westminster orators.

Adjoining newshills seen in Bolton the other day: "£1 million warehouse blaze" and "Wandsworth manager under fire". I hope for his sake they beat Preston North End tonight.

Alan Hamilton

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Recession saps
German
confidence,
page 19

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Stock markets
FT Ind 511.7, up 10.5
FT Gilt 70.08, down 0.11

Sterling
\$2.2660, up 165 pts
Index 100.6, up 0.5

Dollar
Index 99.2, down 0.1
DM2.0815, down 57 pts

Gold
\$340.50, up \$18

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 mth Euro 5 15-14 1/2
6 mth Euro 5 14 1/2-14 1/4

Cut in vehicle shipments to America vital, Japan told

From Frank Vogt
Washington, March 24

President Reagan has decided that a reduction in Japanese car exports to the United States is essential. He is believed to have told Mr. Masayoshi Ito, the foreign minister of Japan, at a White House meeting today that Japan should find a way to restrain car shipments to America.

that his government wants a clear signal from President Reagan.

Mr. Lewis said that it was his understanding that the Japanese authorities wanted to be told bluntly just what the United States Administration really wanted. He said it was in Japan's best interest to reduce their exports, and it was his personal view that the reduction should be 200,000 cars below last year's level.

The Administration is seeking to protect the ailing American car industry without formally approving protectionist measures, such as quotas or special import tariffs.

A cabinet level task force, headed by Mr. Drew Lewis, secretary of transportation, has concluded that swift action by Japan on voluntary restraints is vital if the United States Congress is to be stopped from passing tough protectionist legislation.

The White House has not yet decided on the desirable level of Japanese car imports. Last year, Japan exported 1.9 million cars to America. The Administration is hoping that the Japanese will take the initiative and set levels of their own, but Mr. Ito has indicated

Leaders of the American car industry are strongly in favour of restraints on the Japanese. It looks as if the Ford Motor Company might have losses in the first quarter of this year of around \$500m after a loss of \$1,500m last year. Chrysler is also likely to sustain substantial losses.

Each of the United States manufacturers is offering rebates to boost sales.

The White House expects that any deal struck with Japan will bring angry protests from the Europeans. However, officials suggested that countries such as Italy and France had long used administrative methods to block imports of Japanese cars.

Midlands courts Datsun

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Five hundred business and civic leaders are meeting in Wolverhampton tomorrow in a campaign to attract the proposed £200m Datsun car plant to the West Midlands.

They will be told that the Government's recent refusal to grant the region assisted area status can be more than offset by siding the plant in the tradi-

tional heartland of the British car industry.

Senior officials preparing the West Midlands' submission to McKinsey, the management consultants acting for Nissan, believe that the availability of assisted area grants will be secondary.

They point out that both BL and Talbot, which had reluctantly opened plants in assisted areas, later closed down and fell back on more reliable bases in the West Midlands.

THF seeks vote on Savoy Hotel offer

By Philip Robinson

Sir Charles Forte's Trusthouse Forte empire is to seek leave from the High Court to call meetings of shareholders of the Savoy Hotel chain for which his group is bidding £58m. And in a statement yesterday, Sir Hugh Wontner, Savoy chairman, says he will fight it.

Trusthouse Forte's merchant bank adviser, S. G. Warburg, said the group has decided to seek leave to summon meetings of the "A" and "B" classes of Savoy shareholders under a Scheme of Arrangement using Section 206 of the 1948 Companies Act.

If they succeed, the Trusthouse Forte offer to each class of shareholder will be put to the vote. Sir Charles believes that, if he can get the required majority of "A" shareholders—just over 50 per cent of the total votes—he will be able to manage the chain.

Sir Hugh says: "We shall do everything in our power to prevent THF taking advantage of the Section 206 Scheme device which, as THF proposes to use it, we regard as fundamentally objectionable."

THF's scheme is an attempt to circumvent the complicated shareholding structure which gives the Savoy board a declared 40 per cent of a two-vote carrying "B" class—it is estimated that 48 per cent of the total votes are in friendly hands—while only about 5 per cent of the 10-shares per vote "A" shares.

BPC may cut 2,000 more printing jobs

By David Hewson

BPC, Britain's largest printing company, faces possible plant closures and a further 2,000 redundancies in addition to the loss of 1,684 jobs agreed by the print unions in recent weeks.

None of the redundancies will be in the company's vital gravure plants, which were yesterday reported to be facing a £50m expansion and modernisation programme.

Print union leaders, who are due to meet Mr Robert Maxwell, BPC's new deputy chairman and chief executive, this week to discuss new demands, were unavailable for comment last night, but it is believed that they hold little hope of stemming the job losses.

The rescue operation organised by Mr Maxwell for BPC appears to have been underwritten by the group's banks on the understanding that an extension of the current workforce would be forthcoming. BPC lost about £6.5m in the last six months of last year.

If the latest round of redun-

Bank backs more pension fund legislation

By Margaret Stone

The Bank of England's city capital markets committee has come down firmly in favour of further legislation for pension funds—a stand not shared by the Government which has already made clear its own preference for voluntary improvements for the industry.

The committee, which has been set up by the Government, the committee has rejected most of the calls made by the Wilson Report for the tightening, through legislation, of both pension fund structure and the investment framework within which schemes operate.

But it does share some of the concern expressed by the Wilson Report

about the rights of pension scheme members (and pensioners) to participate in the management of their pension schemes, and their right to information which will enable them to judge whether or not the scheme is being properly administered.

Its recommendations differ in several ways from those of the Wilson Report. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee said: "We do not recommend anything as comprehensive and complicated, and therefore as cumbersome, as a 'Pensions Scheme Act' analogous to the Companies Act."

Instead the committee wants legisla-

tion to give members and pensioners the right to appoint 50 per cent of the trustees, with the method of choosing them open to local agreement, subject to safeguards that no significant category is left unrepresented.

The proposed legislation would also require the trustees to notify members that they can have access to relevant information, as laid down in the industry's own code of practice.

Unlike the Wilson Report the committee thinks it would be "wasteful" for pension schemes to send reports and accounts to all members irrespective of whether or not they wanted them.

But the committee does pick up a

possibility suggested by the Wilson Report. It recommends provision for the appointment of an inspector (by the Occupational Pensions Board) where schemes are badly run. It also agrees that details about the extent of self investment should be revealed.

The National Association of Pension Funds, which has already set in motion the code of practice for giving members greater information, last night welcomed the committee's stand in preference to the Wilson Report. Mr Henry James, the director general, said: "They are more practicable and much more acceptable."

Financial Editor, page 19

Extra 4pc saving for bulk power users

By John Huxley

Industrial users should be able to cut their electricity bills by as much as 4 per cent by using a new flexible supply contract, details of which were given yesterday.

Taken with concessions being negotiated individually by area boards, total savings for bulk load users could amount to 8 per cent. This is the figure mentioned by the Government when it announced a £150m package aimed at reducing industry's energy bill earlier this month.

Ministers recognized that the new scheme would affect the supply industry's ability to manage financial resources, and adjusted its external financing limit of £210m for 1981-82 by £45m. The new scheme will be available to large users who can respond to reduced supply at notice as short as 15 minutes.

Central Electricity Generating Board chiefs said yesterday that the introduction of the new category represented a limited attempt to help hard-pressed customers. They stressed, however, that the measures were temporary.

At the same time, the board gave details of its bulk supply tariff, which may be affected by the 13 per cent higher for the early part of 1981-82, against 1980-81.

The CEBG emphasized that officials had faced considerable uncertainty in calculating the tariff, which may be affected by fuel cost adjustments.

Much depends upon the cost of the coal bought by the CEBG. Fuel accounted for about 60 per cent of the board's £6,000m costs this year which are expected to total more than £4,000m in 1981-82.

The CEBG has assumed that coal price rises will not exceed the rate of inflation—as agreed in a 1979 understanding allowing the board to buy 75 million tonnes a year from the National Coal Board.

However, it admits that its calculations could be upset if coal prices rise faster, despite the level of wage settlement reached with the National Union of Mineworkers in November.

Talks over coal purchases are continuing, but the CEBG has confirmed that it has not yet been told to stop imports, which this year will total about four million tonnes, one million tonnes less than originally expected. However, because of the demand for imports, it is likely to be only two million tonnes in 1981/82.

Uncertainty also exists over likely oil prices next year and the ability of nuclear power stations to meet a larger proportion of CEBG requirements.

Shipbuilders lifts pay offer to 6.8 per cent

By Donald Macintyre

British Shipbuilders yesterday offered its 70,000 manual workers and staff increases of 6.8 per cent in two days of negotiations which broke up last night without agreement.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is to seek further improvements in the terms of the offer, which had been raised from 5 per cent and would give the average skilled manual worker an estimated average of another 5.8 per cent.

The two sides will today use talks in London on a restructuring programme to set a date for the next meeting. Mr James Murray, leader of the union's negotiating team, said last night: "We have told them that the offer is not acceptable at the present time."

Talks had earlier come close to breakdown when a tentative offer outlined in private talks the previous night was withdrawn after the personal intervention of Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders. Mr Atkinson is understood to have made it clear that he could not agree to a six-month moratorium on compulsory redundancies being included in the agreement, due to the effect on April 1. He said, however, that he wanted to discuss with the unions, in separate talks, moves towards a mutually acceptable job security formula for the industry.

The moratorium proposal had been aired during Monday's late night talks between CSEU leaders and a management team led by Mr Kenneth Griffin, deputy chairman of the corporation.

Although British Shipbuilders will insist on measures to recoup a large part of the deal's costs through improved productivity, it is not now expected to insist that only workers who have reached, in advance, local deals on yard efficiency will be paid the national increase. Instead, it will seek to agree a formula for continuous joint monitoring to ensure that national guidelines are observed.

These include limits on overtime, interchangeability between trades, an effective ban on recruitment, reallocation of the disputes procedure, and hopefully some form of "no strike clause".

Mr Atkinson said last night that the corporation was determined to improve productivity in return for this year's settlement. He acknowledged that the offer was below the inflation rate, but said: "We are working like beavers to keep Cammell Laird and Scott Lithgow going. We are competing for orders where our prices are too high. Where do we find the money if we are losing money and we cannot win orders?"

Advisers to 'insolvent' company criticized

By Philip Robinson

A small merchant bank, three firms of accountants, a leading stockbroker firm and a stockbroker were severely criticized yesterday in a Department of Trade report on the collapse of Kina Holdings, which won the Queens Award for exports in 1975 by falsifying its figures.

The award was annulled last month, after Mr Edwin Hearn, the Kina managing director, was jailed for admitting gaining the award by deception. Kina Holdings, a public but unquoted company collapsed after a huge issue in October 1975 of new shares, including the M & G group and creditors nearly £13m.

Mr William Dennis QC and Mr Kenneth Webb, the inspectors say, in their report: "Our own investigations lead us to believe the company was never solvent. The remarkable thing is that it survived as long as it did."

Kina started life as Jagard Brothers, a small private company with an issued share capital of £500 which was dormant for six years. Towards the end of 1966 it was reactivated by Mr Edwin Hearn, its principal shareholder, then aged 43. The following year he was joined by Mr Michael Clouston.

Throughout most of the company's life they had with them Mr Thomas Allright who, the inspectors say, played an important part in the company's affairs.

The report says that Kina was beset permanently by chronic cash problems. "Normal and proper remedies were never sufficient and the company turned to various expedients, most of which involved cynical disregard for the truth in their operation."

In an attempt to raise more cash in 1970, Mr Hearn turned to Close Brothers, the merchant bankers. The inspectors conclude that the subsequent issue to raise money should not have taken place. They say they are not satisfied that Close Brothers did all they could before inviting their clients to invest.

They say the prospectus was misleading in several respects and that Harold Everett, Wand & Co, the company's auditors at the time, failed to achieve the requisite standards of care and diligence.

Kina's audit for the years from 1972 was carried out by Collins & Co (later Collins, Soanes & Co). "The startling inadequacy of these audits have to deal with in some detail," the inspectors say.

The inspectors say that reference must also be made to two directors whose presence at Kina contributed significantly to successive injections of finance.

Mr Lionel Arbis, a partner with Greene & Co, stock brokers, joined the group in 1971 and helped to negotiate progressive increases in overdraft facilities made available by Barclays.

The final fund raising came in 1975 on the arrival of Vickers da Costa, stockbrokers. Vickers do not sponsor such fundraising. The inspectors say the brokers were right, but wrong to allow Mr Marcus Gregson, their corporate finance department manager, to go ahead and raise money for Kina "under his own banner".



Pickers outside the Lloyds London computer centre.

Lloyds staff in picket line clash

By Paul Routledge

Temper flared on a bank workers' picket line outside the Lloyds Bank computer centre in Blackfriars, London, yesterday. Striking members of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) objected to the presence of non-union members of the rival non-UCU Clearing Bank Union crossing their picket line to go into work.

About 800 of Lloyds staff went on a 24-hour strike at the Savings, House of Commons, Centre. Mr David Evans, BIFU's senior London organizer, urged the employers to "come to their senses" before industrial action spread to the high street banks.

Cash cards. Action at the Lloyds computer centre failed to close any of the bank's automatic cashpoints in any part of the country, (writes Margaret Paganio).

The cash points operated normally because sufficient staff from other unions crossed the picket line to monitor the terminals.

Security services were at first refused entry to deliver

cheques, but by the close of business Lloyds said they had cleared 80 per cent of the one and a half million cheques dealt with by the system each day.

The remaining cheques were stored in safe keeping for presentation this morning.

Other parts of London are being battered this week as part of the second stage of industrial action threatened by Bif.

Results of the Bif ballot on extending the action should be known by the end of the week and talks centre on work-to-rule, overtime bans and more one day strikes. There are plans to include Midland, National Westminster and William and Glyn's banks.

Spreading strike, page 18

Onshore licences awarded

By John Huxley

Three onshore oil production licences covering areas in Yorkshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire and Hampshire were awarded by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday.

The licences authorize the holders to drill for and produce petroleum, if found. In each case they relate to areas previously covered by exploration licences, which permit oil and gas search only by means of a geological survey.

Pacific Basins (UK) has been awarded a licence covering 160

sq km, to the south-east of Leeds.

A group comprising BP Petroleum Development, British Gas Corporation and Candecca Resources has been granted an area of 215.8 sq km, to the east of Scunthorpe.

A 95.9 sq km area west of Eastleigh, Hampshire, is covered in a licence granted to Amoco Petroleum and Ultramar Exploration.

Meanwhile, Phillips Petroleum UK has disclosed further encouraging details about its T-block in the North Sea.

Run on peso hits Argentine reserves

From Tony Emerson

Buenos Aires, March 24

With small investors fighting their way into exchange houses, the run against the Argentine peso has gathered an inexorable momentum. In six banking days, seven million dollars have been lost over \$1,000m (£442.5m)—a fifth of her reserves.

Though the logical way of avoiding further losses would be a big devaluation of the peso—its dollar parity has increased at only a third of the rate of inflation—Dr Martinez

De Hoz, Minister of the Economy until next Sunday, is determined to keep faith with his financial backers and maintain the predetermined exchange rate.

His admirers praise his loyalty: his detractors point to the vast arbitrage created by monthly interest rates of over 8 per cent and monthly devaluation of 3 per cent.

The central bank, many of whose directors' connexions have been the chief beneficiaries of this arbitrage, has weighed in with its ploys for

defending the present exchange policy. On a conventional plane it has raised interest offered on treasury notes and squeezed discount facilities to financial institutions.

On a more Latin American plane it decreed that exchange operations can be effected only by filling in a particular form and then failed to distribute more than a minimal quantity of the said forms. On an equally Latin American plane, a black market is trading dollars at premiums of up to 20 per cent.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		Falls	
Ass News	13p to 25p	Electronics	5p to 65p
Brit Chem Int	13p to 16p	Harrison Cros	13p to 75p
Glaxo Hldgs	12p to 25p	Hevitt J	5p to 24p
Asmo	12p to 25p	Joseph L	4p to 87p
Peterson Zechins	12p to 52p	Myson	4p to 39p

Falls		Rises	
Electronics	5p to 65p	Nagretti &	2p to 26p
Harrison Cros	13p to 75p	Ricardo Eng	32p to 53p
Hevitt J	5p to 24p	Sale Tilney	5p to 17p
Joseph L	4p to 87p	Scholes G H	5p to 20p
Myson	4p to 39p		

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank		Bank	Bank
	buys	sells		buys	sells
Australia \$	2.20	33.00	Norway Kr	12.65	12.00
Austria Sch	2.20	33.00	Portugal Esc	129.00	123.00
Belgium Fc	82.25	78.25	South Africa R	2.01	1.87
Canada \$	2.73	2.84	Spain Pta	165.50	156.50
Denmark Kr	15.50	14.70	Sweden Kr	10.79	10.24
Finland Mk	9.57	9.07	Switzerland Fr	4.47	4.24
France Fr	11.45	10.95	USA \$	2.31	2.40
Germany Dm	4.90	4.65	Yugoslavia Dnr	81.50	76.00
Greece Dr	116.50	110.50			
Hongkong \$	12.30	11.70			
Ireland Lir	244.00	233.00			
Italy Lit	496.00	471.00			
Japan Yen	360.00	354.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.40	5.14			

Egyptian agriculture calls on ICI's rat-catching expertise Britain's 'Pied Piper' goes to the Nile delta

One of the largest rat-catching contracts to be awarded since the city fathers of Hamelin employed the Pied Piper has been won by Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest manufacturing company.

Under a £1m contract with the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, ICI will supply more than 900 tons of its new "one-feed" rodenticide, Klerat, and provide training for thousands of local workers in its use.

The rodent-control programme covers about one million acres of agricultural land in three Nile delta provinces, Gharbiya, Dakahlia and Damietta. Rats and mice cause widespread damage in the region in citrus and mango orchards, vineyards, cereal, cotton and sugarcane fields and in date palms.

In recent years the rat population in the Nile area has been increasing. Local rodent watchers attribute this in part to the building of the Aswan Dam and the consequent decline in the number of rats drowning in river floods.

Heavy crop losses were being incurred. But Mr John Mitchell, overseas marketing

director for ICI's plant protection division, based at Barnstaple, Surrey, explained yesterday that the rat, also posed a serious threat to public health.

"Several babies had been bitten by rats, and the Egyptian ministers of health recognized that the rats were becoming a political problem."

ICI won the contract, which is believed to be the largest awarded for a rodent-control programme, against strong competition. West German and Swiss rat-catchers are busy at work in other provinces.

The group attributes its success partly to the efforts of its local office staffed by seven Egyptians, who have been supported by head office staff who visited the Nile on several occasions.

The contract may have been clinched after a highly successful demonstration at a country chicken farm, where several thousand rats and mice were bagged, Mr Mitchell said yesterday.

The first consignment of Klerat left England by ship for Alexandria earlier this month, only two weeks after the

contract was won. Several ICI scientists will spend about two months in Egypt explaining the use of the rat-killer to a workforce which Mr Mitchell says will run into thousands. Training films are being prepared and a fully equipped truck will also be sent out to assist in the campaign.

Mr Mitchell added that the new preparation was safe and easy to handle, as well as having a technical edge over rival, foreign rodenticides. However, the local workforce had to be trained to lay the bait in the right place.

ICI explained that control measures had not been entirely successful in the past either because the bait had to be eaten for several days or because it had such an unpleasant taste it deterred rodents from taking a lethal dose. Klerat succeeds because a single dose is sufficient.

Little Klerat is used so far in Britain. But it is a big seller already in Indonesia where it is used to control rats in rice fields, and in the United States, where it is used mainly in New York.

John Huxley

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

Abstract of Audited Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 December 1980

Funds and Provisions	£	£
Endowment Fund	3,851,605	
Reserve Fund	353,927	
Provision for grants authorised	754,327	
	4,959,859	
Reserve Fund		
As at 31 December 1979	221,910	
Income from investments, etc	605,056	
	826,966	
Less		
Non-grant expenditure	139,914	
Grants authorised (net)	323,125	
	463,039	
As at 31 December 1980	363,927	
Grants authorised in the		
quinquennium 1976-80	1,672,674	

GEOFFREY LORD, Secretary and Treasurer
Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 7EJ
18 March 1981

Clearers say they are 'committed' to sticking on 10 per cent pay offer

Strike could close entire bank system

A "master" contingency plan to close down the banking system in England and Wales could come into operation if any one bank is forced to close through the present strike of industrial action.

Settlement of accounts may be affected by the strike proposed by the Banking and Finance Union (Bifu) at the two Barclays Bank computer centres at Gloucester and Wythenshawe tomorrow.

If full-scale pickets are mounted and employees are refused entry, the bank expects internal disruption. The union warns that the dispute could cause a huge backlog of vital paper work.

A special control group, headed by Mr John Quinton, a general manager at Barclays, is operating with the Committee of London Clearing Banks to discuss contingency plans. Mr Quinton maintains that Barclays would close branches if Bifu strikes the contingency plan.

And if any one bank were forced to close for a prolonged period, the "master" contingency plan would be set in motion. The plan would be to close down the banking system in England and Wales. The Bank of England has been informed of the banks' view, but no comment was available.

Mr Ian Morrison, head of information at the Committee, commented that any part of the whole banking system would only be shut down if it was no longer possible to carry on an effective service to customers. The clearing banks were involved in a "totally new ball game" in industrial relations, he said. "They are committed to see the 10 per cent offer through."

A closure of the system would depend on the duration of stoppages and the type of activity. At the moment it is a nuisance and it seems that Bifu is unclear on how far it wants to go, he said.

What would happen should the banks close down is entirely hypothetical, since it has never happened before in the English banking system.

The first question depends on whether the unions are able to bring the banks to their knees by causing cash to run dry or to prevent the main clearing centres, such as Edmonton, from working.

"The financial implications," said one banker, "could be chaotic if managers and non-union members were unable to operate the system."

But by an ingenious way it might be possible for transactions to be carried out by bills of exchange, endorsed cheques being used throughout the system and a degree of flexibility on credit card limits.

For example, if there were a two-week stoppage, a housewife could pay for food shopping by cheque as normal, but the store would pay its bills using its customers' cheques, and so on throughout the system.

The threat of a total shutdown was discussed briefly at a Stock Exchange committee meeting earlier this week. The consensus was that neither isolated nor concerted action would affect trading as dramatically as supposed.

Mr Thomas Dodd, in charge of settlement accounting (TALISMAN), said that after discussions with the market's bank it was felt that most problems could be averted. The Lloyds strike and tomorrow's threatened action would have almost no impact. But an escalation would mean that settlements between member firms could be carried out by a system of "rolling over".

Margareta Pagano

Matching pay to productivity

From Mr R. G. Opie
Sir, I envy the sense of humour that led you to publish on adjoining pages (March 23) a letter from Professor G. Maynard on the United Kingdom's economic troubles and your report of the striking 31 per cent increase in the salary of the National Westminster Bank chairman whose photograph was captioned "Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton: strain upon resources".

Professor Maynard wrote that he "can hardly resist the view... that the basic problem facing the United Kingdom economy is the refusal of the United Kingdom labour force to accept an own product real wage consistent with the productivity of both labour and capital which working practices and managerial efficiency permit".

Even more than your sense of humour, sir, I envy the sheer cheek of a bank chairman paying himself 31 per cent more, when his own staff are

being offered 10 per cent no, and when he and Sir Jeremy Morse (£78,000 per annum at Lloyds) are busy lobbying against the tax on banks' profits.

If the United Kingdom labour force is unwilling to pay itself as little as it deserves, where does this unwillingness have its source? From observation of their betters perhaps? Or, more seriously and more permanently, how can we achieve restraint in demand for money incomes—except by the sort of policy which produces both record banking profits and 2.1 million unemployment—unless everyone is included in this self-restraint?

Yours faithfully,
R. G. OPIE,
New College,
Oxford.

St. Joe in move to fight Seagram bid

St Joe Mineral Corp has announced a series of moves which it hopes to fend off a \$2,000m (£864.9m) takeover bid by Joseph E. Seagram & Sons. The company said that it would buy back two million of its shares for \$50 a share, and reserved the right to buy back up to 10 million shares. It would also exchange five million shares for a new issue of convertible preferred stock.

Seagram offered to buy St Joe, a diversified mineral company, in a surprise move on March 11. At that time the drinks company offered to pay \$45 a share for St Joe. The stock was then trading at \$28.

China contract off

The Mitsubishi industrial group today became the first Japanese company to terminate a large contract with China as a result of cutbacks in China's ambitious industrialisation programme. Mitsubishi is ending a £180m contract for a steel plant in Shanghai.

Turkey loan talks

Turkey and its main Western creditors meet in Paris today to decide how much the country needs in foreign loans to finance its economic revival programme for 1981. Turkey hopes to persuade fellow members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to provide more than the £515m agreed in 1980.

India plea for funds

India has appealed to Mr Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, for funds to help to increase its oil and fertilizer production to meet growing energy needs.

French textiles report

A French parliamentary commission on France's ailing textile industry has urged the government to take steps quickly to slow the growth of imports.

Pipe plant contract

Friedrich Kocks, of Düsseldorf, has won an order from Algonquin Steel Corporation, Canada, to build a steel pipe plant with an annual capacity of 300,000 tonnes.

Employers challenged to end closed shop deals

By Patricia Tisdall

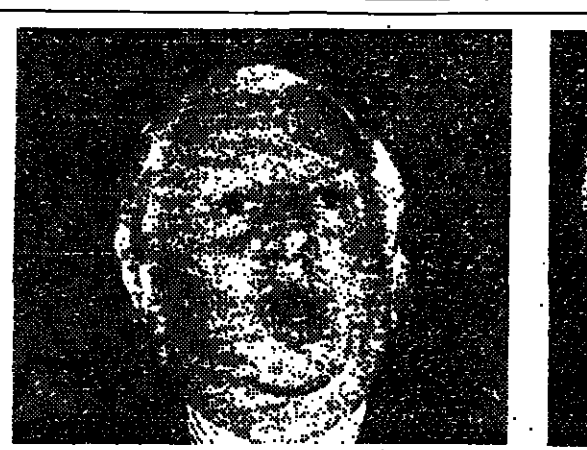
A challenge to employers to put an immediate end to new closed shop agreements with trade unions was issued by Mr Walter Goldsmith, a general of the Institute of Directors, at its annual convention in London yesterday.

The challenge was issued in response to remarks made by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, earlier in the day which made it plain that he wanted to see more initiatives from employers in invoking the anti-union provisions in the new Employment Act before he was prepared to legislate further.

Speaking at the opening speaker to the institute's 2,000 delegates at the Albert Hall, gave examples of employers who, he said, "were more determined than any trade union to maintain closed shop agreements". One was Sandwell District Council and another was Chrysler, where, despite industrial tribunal rulings employees were not reinstated after having been dismissed for refusing to join trade unions.

Referring to the Industrial Relations Bill, Mr Prior said: "Why did not more managers use it?" He added: "The fact that it was disregarded by management and largely defeated by union movement a political power that it never had before."

Mr Prior, who was facing some of his fiercest critics, said



Mr Prior: some employers determined to maintain the closed shop.

he was often told that he had missed his chance to reform trade union legislation. Yet he believed that to have "rushed" into legislation would not have been the best basis to build much-needed reforms. It was necessary to move step-by-step.

Mr Goldsmith, who received a long ovation for his remarks, said: "no longer can we give Jim Prior the excuse to hold back on further legislation because of timid employers. The existence of closed shops is a fundamental infringement to



Mr Richard: industry deserves greater share of EEC funds.

human rights and a disgrace to this country," he said. "I don't see a shift in the allocation of European Economic Community resources to manufacturing industry was advocated by Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs."

The situation where 75 per cent of EEC resources is allocated to the Common Agricultural Policy and less than 3 per cent to industry, energy, research, and transport cannot be allowed to continue," he said. "It is an ultimate absurdity to pay farmers to produce food which nobody except the Community can buy."

Institute warning to Tory Party waverers

By Our Management Correspondent

A warning against the new Social Democratic Party was given by the Institute of Directors, traditionally the most loyal of Conservative Party supporters, at its annual convention at the Albert Hall in London yesterday.

The warning, issued by Mr Walter Goldsmith, the insti-

tute's director general, was a clear indication that business support for the present Government is wavering, and that at least some institute members are considering cancelling their subscriptions to the Tory Party.

Mr Goldsmith's remarks made it clear that he considered that a new centre party was a real threat to the Conservatives.

"This week the Social Demo-

crats are reaching out to businessmen for financial support, and I would beg businessmen to have a care," Mr Goldsmith said.

"They offer pay and price controls, dividend controls: constructive intervention in private industry; a return to playhouse economics. Lock up your credit cards is our warning this week."

PUBLIC NOTICES

Competition Act 1980

Notice under section 3 (2) (b) Sheffield Newspapers Limited

Under section 3 of the Competition Act 1980 the Director General of Fair Trading is to investigate:

- the terms upon which Sheffield Newspapers Limited is or has been supplying newspapers to newsagents and whether supply on those terms, or any of them, is a course of conduct which amounts to an anti-competitive practice;
- the terms upon which Sheffield Newspapers Limited is or has been securing distribution services from newsagents in relation to the distribution of newspapers and of similar publications which consist wholly or mainly of advertisements and whether the securing of services on those terms, or any of them, is a course of conduct which amounts to an anti-competitive practice;
- the criteria of Sheffield Newspapers Limited for determining whether to supply advertising services in relation to the advertising of real property and whether the application of those criteria, or any of them, is a course of conduct which amounts to an anti-competitive practice; and
- the terms, including the rates of charge, upon which Sheffield Newspapers Limited is or has been supplying advertising services in relation to the advertising of real property and whether supply on those terms, or any of them, is a course of conduct which amounts to an anti-competitive practice.

The goods and services to which the investigation is to relate are newspapers, the service of distributing newspapers and similar publications which consist wholly or mainly of advertisements and advertising services in relation to the advertising of real property.

If you have any information which you consider would help the Director General please write to: Office of Fair Trading, Branch C24, Chancery House, 53 Chancery Lane, LONDON WC2A 1SP

Your letter should arrive as soon as possible if it is to be taken into account in the enquiry.

Among matters to be investigated are allegations made to the Director General that newsagents were told that their supplies of the "Morning Telegraph" and "The Star" would be withdrawn if they distributed copies of a free publication "Homes", and other allegations that local estate agents were informed that certain advertisements of houses for sale would not be accepted if they also appeared in "Homes".

RE: PARK DRIVE AND DENTON ROAD, NEWBURN—PLOTS 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760 and 1763.

NOTICE is hereby given that the above plots are being offered for sale by the North Yorkshire Council. The Council is a body corporate established under the Local Government Act 1972. The Council is a body corporate established under the Local Government Act 1972. The Council is a body corporate established under the Local Government Act 1972.

PASTORAL MEASURES 1968

The Church Commissioners have approved a fresh DRAFT REDUNDANCY SCHEME, providing for the appointment of a Redundancy Officer to the Church of England. The scheme is designed to provide for the appointment of a Redundancy Officer to the Church of England. The scheme is designed to provide for the appointment of a Redundancy Officer to the Church of England.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NOTICE TO PATRICIA JEAN TOSTER

Take notice that a PETITION for a Decree of Divorce has been presented to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory by your wife, Patricia Jean Toster, on the grounds of adultery, cruelty and desertion for three years.

And that it has been ordered that service on you of the Petition be effected by this notice. If you desire to defend the said Petition you must within 30 days from the date of this notice file in the Supreme Court, either an Answer or a Demurrer, and a copy of the same must be served on the petitioner. If you fail to do so, the petitioner will be entitled to obtain a decree of divorce without your being heard. The petitioner's address for service is: 222, Adelaide, N.W.T., 1310.

And further take notice that, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, any person wishing to file an Answer or Demurrer must file the same with the Supreme Court, and a copy of the same must be served on the petitioner.

Dated the 11th day of March, A.D. 1981 at the City of Adelaide, in the Northern Territory, Canada.

Clifford of the Supreme Court

In the 1980 Folio 655

Queen's Bench Division of Admiralty

Notice is hereby given to all persons who are or may be interested in the ship "The M/V 'SANTANA' (Registration No. 1234567890) that the ship is being sold by the Admiralty.

Any person who is or may be interested in the ship should apply to the Admiralty for further particulars.

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

NOTICE TO PATRICIA JEAN TOSTER

Take notice that a PETITION for a Decree of Divorce has been presented to the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory by your wife, Patricia Jean Toster, on the grounds of adultery, cruelty and desertion for three years.

And that it has been ordered that service on you of the Petition be effected by this notice. If you desire to defend the said Petition you must within 30 days from the date of this notice file in the Supreme Court, either an Answer or a Demurrer, and a copy of the same must be served on the petitioner. If you fail to do so, the petitioner will be entitled to obtain a decree of divorce without your being heard. The petitioner's address for service is: 222, Adelaide, N.W.T., 1310.

And further take notice that, in accordance with the provisions of the said Act, any person wishing to file an Answer or Demurrer must file the same with the Supreme Court, and a copy of the same must be served on the petitioner.

Dated the 11th day of March, A.D. 1981 at the City of Adelaide, in the Northern Territory, Canada.

Clifford of the Supreme Court

In the 1980 Folio 655

Queen's Bench Division of Admiralty

Notice is hereby given to all persons who are or may be interested in the ship "The M/V 'SANTANA' (Registration No. 1234567890) that the ship is being sold by the Admiralty.

Any person who is or may be interested in the ship should apply to the Admiralty for further particulars.

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

DISPOSABLE PRODUCTS SALES WILL CONTINUE TO RISE IN 1981 AND BEYOND

A number of extremely valuable Disposables are available in the UK for sale. The products are available in the UK for sale. The products are available in the UK for sale.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The City calls for action on pensions

Last year's Wilson Committee report on the City did one thing, if it did nothing else. It made a wider public aware of the fact that over the past decade pension funds have become major financial institutions in their own right. It also drew attention to the fact that this metamorphosis had in no way been matched by equivalent changes in the statutory framework within which they operate.

Most pension funds operate in a general way subject to basic trust law. The Occupational Pensions Board, set up under the 1973 Social Security Act, has certain executive and advisory functions, particularly in relation to funds that are "contracted out" of the state pension scheme. But the fact is that there is no basic framework of up to date supervisory legislation within which pension funds should operate.

Wilson proposed that there should be such a framework. The present Government, with the understandable tendency of all governments that it is better to let sleeping dogs lie, decided that it would not take up the suggestion. The declared hope was that "best practice" would spread fast enough to make legislation unnecessary.

Now the City Capital Markets Committee has said quite rightly that such passive optimism will not do. Its proposals published today are based on the clear understanding that, if enlightened self-regulation in the City is to survive, it must be constantly alert and must accept that at the margin there is a necessary minimum place for statute in addition.

For most of the biggest pension funds the proposals have already been implemented—a requirement for a minimum level of disclosure of information to members and the right to 50 per cent representation by employees amongst the trustees of pension funds.

But the problems of self-regulation are seldom with the leading operators in a market. In the interests of the orderly development of the pension fund sector in the next ten years the Government should put limited legislation of the kind suggested onto the statute book. Otherwise the chances are that at some point in the future we shall face much farther-reaching change in response to crisis or scandal.

Lasmo

In a new tax regime

Yesterday's 17p rise in Lasmo's shares to 619p had more to do with the latest find in the "T" Block than doubled profits of £47m and earnings up from 12.7p to 30p a share. Nevertheless the results are still something of a milestone. Lasmo has paid off its accumulated deficit and is promising a first dividend at the interim stage while its strong cash flow of £68m in 1980—fuelled by the stake in Ninian which is nearly at peak production—has allowed it to repay all but



Mr Geoffrey Searle, chairman of London & Scottish Marine Oil.

£10m of the bank borrowings taken for the development of Ninian.

The next stage for Lasmo is the development of the other proven acreage where it is involved—the "T" Block which seems to be slipping behind and the South Ninian and Andrew areas which are likely to proceed faster.

Further ahead still, there are the hopes inherent in Lasmo's seventh round allocations and its exploration programme which

should see it participating in one tenth of all exploration and appraisal wells drilled on the United Kingdom continental shelf this year.

Lasmo's long-term potential is undeniable, but the outlook for the shares in the short-term is confused by the North Sea tax regime.

The first tranche of the new special petroleum duty should be covered by Lasmo's increased share in Ninian which has been adjusted from 7.8 to 9.3 per cent. But the cash position is likely to become tighter as petroleum revenue tax payments build up and Lasmo starts paying out cash for developing other fields. However the significance to the market of the recent tax changes is that estimates of Lasmo's asset value now differ widely which explains why one major stockbroker was selling the shares yesterday while another exponent of the sector was busy buying.

Smith & Nephew

Benefits of the reorganization

During the last two years Smith & Nephew has tried to improve return on capital by getting rid of loss-makers (including Gala) and redeploying assets in faster growing areas.

The benefits may start to show through this year but in any case the group has again shown the resilience of its medical, personal hygiene and toiletries activities to the recession with profits a tenth higher at £24.3m on sales 13 per cent better from ongoing operations.

That, combined with an expected rise of 10 per cent in the dividend to 5.6p a share gross; a 1-for-8 scrip and a confident forecast for the current year, lifted the shares 31p to a new 1980-81 "high" of 110½p.

On trading it is largely a matter of swings and roundabouts; medical and health care, personal hygiene and toiletries businesses having done well enough to offset setbacks in textiles and plastics and tapes. But the improvement at the operational level was more than offset by the more than 40 per cent jump in interest charges to £5m although most of that came in the first half arising mainly from the Anchor acquisition. It has been left to British Tissues to push profits onto a higher level with the doubling of the group's state worth £2.4m pretax and accounting for three-fifths of the associates increase.

The balance sheet is now stronger. Borrowings of £38m are down to 42 per cent of shareholders' funds, not much higher than before the Anchor acquisition, although the group's rating—selling at around 12 earnings and yielding 5.1 per cent—is a tempting base from which to raise equity funds particularly as profits should rise at least another 10 per cent this year.

● In stark contrast to the composite insurers, all seems to be peace and prosperity for the life sector, especially for pure life groups like Equity & Law Life.

After another year of strong growth—new annual premiums up 32 per cent to £22.1m—Equity & Law has raised its dividends by 18 per cent to 18.57p gross. Expectations had been for a rise of around 14 per cent after last year's 36 per cent increase, and, indeed, net payments of 13p are fractionally uncovered by the latest 12.4p-a-share surplus. But the group still has undistributed funds created during the years of dividend restraint; enough in fact to add a further 1p a share to the distributable surplus next year.

The market sees the point: Equity & Law's shares have increased by four-fifths—over 40 per cent against the market—since the last results. Yesterday's 4p rise to a new high of 360p provides a yield of only 5.2 per cent and shows how the whole sector has advanced since the mid-1970s, when dividend controls and fears about the effects of inflation on savings ratios (not to mention nationalization), rattled investors' confidence.

With further strong dividend growth in prospect, further relative strength looks assured, with the only constraints likely to be long-term fears about Government interference and a swing-back to confidence in industrial shares—offering higher returns—as recession bottoms out.

Recession saps German confidence

Peter Norman

West Germany is making heavy weather of the recession. Since re-election last October Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's coalition government has reacted poorly in the face of the country's economic difficulties.

The Federal Bank in Frankfurt has assumed the dominant role in economic policy-making—its own a symptom of lack of leadership from Bonn. Industrialists and bankers are not only becoming increasingly gloomy about their own businesses but are suffering from a slump in confidence about the country's economic future as a whole.

Yet, by all objective criteria, West Germany still appears to be Europe's healthiest economy. Unemployment may have topped 1.3 million at the end of January, but this was still well below the levels in the much smaller economies of Britain or France. According to the latest estimates from the European Commission, West Germany should experience an unemployment rate of no more than 4.4 per cent on average this year, compared with 7.4 per cent for the EEC as a whole.

In the battle against inflation Germany is performing better than its industrial rivals. The year on year cost of living increase of 3.5 per cent in February may have disturbed many Germans, but it was less than half the EEC average and better even than the level of inflation in Switzerland.

Although earlier forecasts of economic growth this year have tumbled, which is disappointing the latest Commission prediction of a 0.7 per cent drop in gross domestic product is only marginally worse than the average 0.6 per cent fall in gdp forecast for the entire European Community this year.

A case can even be made for Germany's huge current account balance of payments deficit, which in all probability will reach last year's level of 28,000m Deutschmarks (about £5,900m) again this year. Even though this will be the largest deficit of any nation in the world, it should represent no more than 1.6 per cent of gross domestic product and so be no worse than the EEC average this year.

But statistics such as these cannot offset the gloom at present emanating from Frankfurt and Bonn.

Germany has been suffering from a leadership crisis since last autumn. This has coincided with a realisation of the country's economic structure has been changing—and for the worse—over several years.

Oil imports

The oil crisis, which was triggered by the Iranian revolution, exposed a major deterioration in the structure of Germany's economy and balance of payments. The doubling of oil prices lifted the share of oil in Germany's import bill last year to nearly one fifth—DM64,000m out of total imports worth DM340,000m.

The immediate effect of this change was to push the current account balance of payments, which had been in healthy surplus through most of the 1970s, from a deficit of DM10,000m in 1979 to one of DM28,000m last year.

That deficit is not going to disappear quickly. It reflects a failure to reduce dependence on imported oil after the first oil crisis of 1973 and a grow-

ing reliance throughout the 1970s on imports of manufactured goods at a time when Germany's trading rivals were building up their export industries to pose a more effective challenge on world markets.

It also reflects the extraordinary boom in foreign travel which now means that one or more holidays abroad each year is normal for many West German families.

These changes began to show through last year as large monthly deficits on the balance of payments and downward pressure on the mark. This happened just as the country was in the throes of an election campaign in which the coalition which eventually victorious capitalised on its reputation for running the economy and the supposed strength of the mark against other world currencies.

The nature of the campaign has probably limited Herr Schmidt's scope for action on the economy since October. West Germany is a comfortable society, which prefers reassurance to challenge and is probably rather unresponsive politically, in that people expect politicians to tell them the truth.

Germany's long history as a surplus country has left both the population and the government ill-prepared to treat a balance of payments deficit as a symptom of economic difficulty. It has been an unwelcome experience for both the finance ministry and the Federal Bank to have to cope with pressure to devalue the national currency and to find themselves no longer in full control of the country's economic policy.

The Federal Bank's decision last month to lift interest rates in support of the mark shows that the authorities in Frankfurt have adjusted to the new conditions. But the politicians have seemed less willing to recognize the problem for what it is, preferring, as Herr Schmidt made clear at the EEC summit in Maastricht this week to opt for concerted action with the United States for a progressive reduction in international interest rates—a solution which may seem politically appealing but is fraught with practical difficulties.

For the government, and in particular the Social Democrat Party, the higher interest rates are a bitter blow that is bound to restrict still further the hopes for a recovery in the economy. But the Federal Bank's action was in a sense inevitable in the absence of decisions to tackle the structural problems that have been undermining the economy at its roots for several years.

The government is meanwhile still having problems in drawing up a coherent approach to the new Reagan Administration in the United States. Herr Schmidt made his reputation as a man who gets things done. This talent has eluded him since the election and the result has been a fall in business confidence.

In other countries a similar lack of leadership might not matter so greatly. But after more or less 30 years of unbroken growth it is an unpleasant shock for the Germans to learn that they, too, can suffer from economic problems. In detail, the country's position might appear to be more favourable than that of any other member of the EEC, but by their very novelty, Germany's economic problems tend to sap confidence more than would be the case in the more battered and bloodied economies of Britain and the United States.

Immediately after the election the government laid great stress on its intention to cut back public borrowing, but by the beginning of this year its target was for a public sector borrowing requirement of between DM55,000m and

DM59,000m in 1981, well above last year's DM53,000m level. The latest estimate is for DM60,000m to DM65,000m.

Error and indecision have characterized cabinet activity outside the narrowly economic sphere.

Herr Hans Apel, the Defence Minister, who was once seen as a possible successor to Herr Schmidt, has had his position seriously weakened through the disclosure that the cost of the Tornado military aircraft project has overrun by large margins. The Social Democrat and Free Democrat coalition partners have been divided over the future of worker co-determination in Germany.

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Bitter medicine at British Airways



A British Airways 747 jumbo on the tarmac at Kennedy Airport, New York: the airline's long-distance services attracted 11 per cent fewer customers in February compared with the same period in 1980. And Mr Howard Phelps (right), BA's operational troubleshooter, keeps track of flight movements from his Woking, Surrey home during off-duty hours.



Photograph (right) by John Manning

absent workforce... it is difficult to appreciate the seriousness of a situation when all in one's particular sphere of operation seems to be going along normally.

But surely stewards and stewardesses have seen the empty seats?

The empty seats figured in Mr Watts' most recent report to the board. In February, traditionally a bad month for every airline, there was a "heavy loss," with long-distance services 11 per cent down on the same period of 1980 and 3 per cent fewer passengers being carried in and out of the two main London airports.

A world travel recession and

increased costs, particularly for fuel, are the root of BA's troubles. Its board has already agreed that it will show a loss of £100m for the financial year which ends this month, but the figure could be higher still.

High staff numbers resulting in lower productivity than among many of its competitors make it more difficult for the airline to climb out of the sort of trough into which it has plunged.

Great efforts are being made to pull up the corporation by its bootstraps. Mr Howard Phelps, director of operations, says that the airline's punctuality record is better than it has ever been. This is part of BA's drive to scoop back lost passengers from competitors. Installing new and more comfortable seating in first and club classes on long-haul airliners is another part of this drive.

Phelps labours to make the airline run on time, and the depleted workforce is labouring hard too. According to graphs which Mr Phelps produces, 87 per cent of BA's short-haul flights departed Heathrow Airport within 15 minutes of the scheduled time in February. The low in the 1980-81 financial

year was 68 per cent, in April, 1980.

Long-distance flights departing within 15 minutes of schedule hit a peak of 75 per cent in February. The lowest point was 56 per cent in October last year.

Short-haul punctuality is now equalling the performance of 1974, considered to have been the airline's best year in recent times. In both long and short-haul there has been an immense improvement over the disastrous year of 1979 when short-haul departure time-keeping struck a low point of only 50 per cent and long-haul went as low as 25 per cent.

It was in July, 1979, that Mr Phelps was switched from his job as BA's personnel director to become operational trouble-shooter. He found it, "not a very good airline." There were a lot of strikes and delays in air traffic. That was also the year in which wing cracks were found in Trident.

As Trident airliners formed the foundation of British Airways' short and medium-distance fleet, punctuality was suffering as the cracking was being engineered out.

But there were other problems. Mr Phelps found that "getting the big ships away on time was seen by some as something that did not matter as much as short-haul flights on a 10-hour Boeing 747 flight it was always possible to advance the throttles."

"I found a lot of people who did not work for a punctual airline and were not sure how important it was."

He ordered a video film called *The unforgiving minute* to show to staff. It was, he said, "a horror story," with real-life candid camera shots of British Airways staff being harassed by passengers who were "really socking it to them."

He made people accountable for getting airliners away on time, and if they did not deliver, "haunted them in." Things improved gradually, but Mr Phelps still recalls with a shudder a night when four 747s had to stay overnight at Heathrow because they were not ready to depart before the noise curfew closed the airport.

A daily meeting was established. At this, Mr Phelps and his team "take the operation apart". A video display unit linked to the BA computer sits in the corner of his office keeping track of flights throughout the world.

A similar unit is installed in his home to enable him to monitor performance in off-duty hours.

Two big problems remain, Mr Phelps says. Air traffic control delays continue; to be the biggest single irritant, costing the airline £1m a year in wasted fuel. The other was continuing delays in luggage retrieval.

"In Chinese terms, 1981 is the year of the bag as far as BA is concerned." "We are getting 85 per cent of the bags within 25 minutes in terminal three at Heathrow and 100 per cent within 65 minutes, and in terminal one, operated almost entirely by us, we are getting bags ready for picking up within 20 minutes of the aircraft stopping almost 90 per cent of the time."

"But we remain unsatisfied and our objective must continue to be that bags arrive at the same time as the passengers enter the retrieval hall."

Arthur Reed

Business Diary: The T & G, not to be written off

Moss Evans is the general secretary of Britain's biggest trade union, the Transport and General Workers', which is seen by some as bringing about the downfall of the Callaghan government as the miners did that of Edward Heath.

Evans, however, has another and lesser-known role, that of literary patron, in which guise he made an appearance yesterday at the T & G headquarters in Westminster—opposite the Central Office of the Tories some credit him with bringing to power.

Evans has provided a foreword and the T & G the funds for a new children's book,



What is a union, and am I really in one? Althea Braithwaite, authoress and publisher.

What is a union? published yesterday at 70p (paperback) and £1.85 (between hard covers) by the independent (and non-unionized) house, Dinosaur.

public to counteract the media's views."

The T & G, he said, had approached Dinosaur and the book's author, managing editor Althea Braithwaite, after the success of an earlier Dinosaur joint venture with the Industrial Society, A visit to the factory.

"This is the first children's book, ever, about unions in Great Britain," he went on. The union is taking 10,000 of the books, which guarantee the publishers will break even, although so will the T & G, which is sending copies and order forms to each of its multitudinous branches.

This is the second publishing venture within a month for the T & G and may not be the last. Earlier this month the union brought out a specially-commissioned biography of its founding father, Ernest Bevin, though again looking outside the movement, for a writer, Mark Stephens, a former Engineering Employers Federation employee.

Of what is a union, which is meant for seven-year-olds and up, Evans said: "We as trade union officials do a lot of speaking at schools, especially at secondary schools—maybe there is a market for a book, perhaps a little up the scale from this one."

There is a passage in this tiny, 24-page book, which says of unions: "They also tell their members what the Government is doing, and how this affects everyone."

How, I asked Evans, was what the Government is doing affecting the T & G? There was, he said, "a tremendous effect. We've lost 9 per cent of our members, out of two million,



Catch 'em young: nine-month-old Matthew Wilson with his mother Penny at Transport House yesterday.

through unemployment." How, then, I went on, did the members of the T & G affect the voters after the winter of discontent into voting in this Government?

"The problem really is that we didn't wish anybody on anybody," he said. "When people go into the polling booth, they make their own decisions." "Experts, like yourself (who, me?) say if we had accepted Mr Callaghan's 5 per cent... but that was not possible because of decisions taken at (T & G) conferences." He was, he said, an employee of the union himself, not of the state and certainly was not an employer.

From Moss Evans, I turned to the authoress, Althea Braithwaite, and asked her if before writing the book she had been a union member.

"Oh no, no," she said. "There isn't there," I went on, "a writers' trade union,

affiliated to the TUC—the Writers' Guild." "Oh, yes," said the authoress, "I'm a member of that."

According to the last TUC statistical statement, the guild has 1,623 members, who paid affiliation fees of £373.29. They have some way to go, both in terms of size and—if Althea Braithwaite is anything to go by in awareness, to catch up with the T & G, which last year paid £480,000.

"What is a union? is designed for children of seven or thereabouts, but the youngest person I saw at yesterday's meeting was Matthew Wilson, 10 months next week, who had come with his mother, Penny, who was signing people in."

"I don't usually work Tuesdays," she said, "and I couldn't get anybody to look after him." Master Wilson is not giving public statements yet, but he did give me a big smile, and quite made the event for me.

Other people who might have been expected to turn up, did not. Jenny Marshall, the book's publicist, told me: "We haven't had a single Tory we invited come."

Nodding towards the other side of Smith Square, she said: "The bookshop at Tory Central Office there didn't even reply to the invitation."

The Ashdown Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Tuesday, 24 March, 1981 at 3.00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 30 November, 1980.

	1980	1979	%Change
Total Revenue	£1,321,731	£1,162,908	+14.6%
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£ 727,226	£ 624,173	+16.5%
Earnings per Ordinary Share (see below)	8.69p	5.88p	+13.8%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	8.20p	5.80p	+10.7%
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	262.9p	177.7p	+47.9%

The comparative figures for 1979 have been restated to exclude non-recurring income received that year as a result of the removal of dividend restraint.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EL.

Ross Davies

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, March 16. Dealings End, March 27. \S Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6
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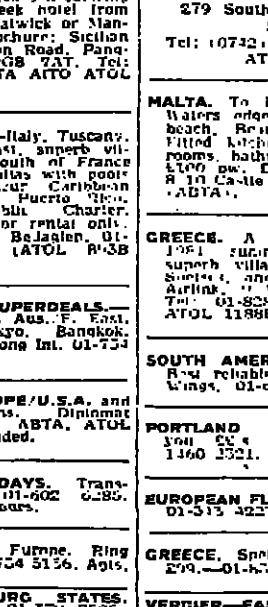
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